

'Twelfth hour' appeal by Mr Foot to Labour dissidents

Mr Michael Foot, Labour leader, last night made a "twelfth-hour" plea to MPs not to leave the party. He questioned whether they were entitled to sit in the Commons as

a new party sailing under false colours. Dr David Owen said social democrats would challenge dogmatic extremism by introducing proportional representation.

Owen call for PR voting system

By George Clark
Political Correspondent

With 10 MPs and about 20 peers set to resign from the Labour Party and affirm their allegiance to a new social democratic grouping, Mr Michael Foot, the party leader, appealed to them last night, "even at this twelfth hour", to stay and fight for their beliefs within the party.

He claimed to be honourable politicians. Mr Foot told party members in his Elbow Vale constituency, "They should face the question whether, having switched their party allegiance and abandoned the party's underpinnings, they when they were elected, they are entitled still to sit in the House of Commons as a group — a new party sailing under false colours, having deserted our flag and chosen to sail under one never even unfurled at the last election."

Mr Foot said it was pitiful that the "antics of a few defectors" should cause so much distraction from the main task of the Opposition, which was to face the scourge of mass unemployment and the threat posed by the nuclear arms race.

"I say to anyone who is contemplating leaving the party that there is no need for them to do so and, in fact, that they will have much more influence both on party policy and on political events in the country... if they stay."

It was because he and his colleagues had been anxious some might say over-anxious, to do nothing which would precipitate defections, that they had so far said very little about recent developments within the parliamentary party itself. But the time had come to speak out plainly.

"Those who are intending to leave have been, like Charles II when he died, an unconscionable time in doing it," Mr Foot said. "They have already sought to do a great deal of harm to the Labour Party. They have surely brought a great deal

of comfort to the Conservative Party. Is this what they wish? It seems so."

Mr Foot said: "Those who leave will become lonely figures in the political wilderness and will be opposed with all the vigour at our command. Their influence on events will be virtually nil."

He reminded the potential rebels that they were elected on Labour Party platforms. Why were they seeking to inflict damage upon Labour now? Mr Foot said that, over the past few weeks, the defectors had manipulated, or sometimes been manipulated by, sections of the media.

Rallying to Mr Foot's support, Mr Roy Hattersley, MP for Birmingham, Sparkbrook, and spokesman on home affairs, told Durham miners: "Nobody can doubt that within a few days or weeks a new political party will be formed which will use much of its recently acquired wealth to denigrate the Labour Party."

"The defectors argue that their decision is a matter of personal conscience. The way they have exploited the Labour Party which they propose to leave is simply squalid."

Dr David Owen, MP for Plymouth, Devonport, a leading figure in the new movement, said: "Bristol that the social democrats would challenge extremism in the two main parties, and made a strong appeal for proportional representation."

That was an issue on which

Liberal and social democrats must agree, because it would be necessary to seek the endorsement of the people for a specific electoral scheme at the next election.

Mr Roy Jenkins, the former Chancellor of the Exchequer, also active in the formation of the new party, said at Aston University in Birmingham that it was urgently necessary for British industry that Parliament should avoid constant switches of policy every two or four years.

"If the eighties are not going to be frittered away still more disastrously than the seventies, we must have consistency of economic management and industrial policy," he said.

Five senior Liberals, Mr David Alton, MP for Liverpool, Edge Hill; Mr David Penhaligon, MP for Truro; Mr Stephen Ross, MP for the City of Westminster; Mr John Pardon, and Lord Avebury (formerly Mr Eric Lubbock), yesterday supported an electoral alliance between Liberals and social democrats.

The case for such an alliance was put forward in a pamphlet written by Mr David Hughes, the prospective Liberal candidate for Westbury. In it he criticized those Liberals who had seen a happy day when the Liberal Party should stay small and unsuccessful, than that it should grow in success with allies who share its prescription.

Mr Steel's role: The leader of the Liberal Party, Mr David Steel said on television last night that he would happily serve under any of the social democrats "gang of four" if they came to power. (Our Newcastle Correspondent writes).

He added: "I hope they would take the same view of me." But, Mr Steel said on BBC North East Coast to Coast programme, he had never been strongly motivated to become prime minister.

Fred Emery, page 14

Leading article, page 15

West must adjust to world in which rises in living standards 'have to be hard-earned'

Mrs Thatcher gives four-point solution for economic ills

From David Cross
Washington, Feb 27

Mrs Thatcher said today that the Western nations, confronting greater dangers to their political and economic freedoms in the 1980s, had to "relearn the old lesson of curbing our cost according to our cloth."

"We have to persuade our peoples to match their expectations to a world in which (economic) growth is likely to be slower than in the early 1970s and increases in living standards have to be hard-earned in public expenditure and in the running of private industry, the cost must match the cloth," she told an audience at Georgetown University, here.

The Prime Minister, who was on the second day of a three-day official visit to the United States, received an honorary doctorate of laws from the university.

Relearning the old lesson was one of four "propositions" put forward in her

speech for reaching the end of the decade "with our economic freedoms in better shape".

The others were: restoration of the soundness of money, nationally and internationally; trade and capital markets must be allowed to function more freely, while "we must intervene in them less"; and "excessive" dependence of the Western economies on imported oil must be reduced.

On the last point, Mrs Thatcher said she applauded the steps taken recently by President Reagan to free oil and petrol prices from controls and let the market play its full role in reducing dependence.

She added: "I believe that sustained pursuit of these four interrelated propositions would give us our best chance of reducing unemployment and improving the lives of the peoples of the developed countries."

She had been impressed in her talks with Mr Reagan at the White House yesterday with

"the striking similarity" between Britain's and America's aims and policies.

Several sections of her long address, in which she outlined her Government's economic philosophy as well as its implementation in Britain, could have come from one of the innumerable campaign speeches made by Mr Reagan when he was a candidate for the presidency last year.

She ended her speech by pointing out that the policies were "neither new nor experimental... We have discovered the old virtues. Individual freedom and responsibility are the springs of our prosperity, as well as the foundations of our moral order."

But she added: "The road to recovery is paved not with good intentions but with hard decisions. I believe that both our countries are now on the right road. We in Britain wish your new President and his Administration success and godspeed."

Despite the similarity of views on how to tackle economic problems, the Administration here has been eager to avoid drawing too close parallels between Britain's economic experience under Mrs Thatcher and what Mr Reagan's virtually identical economic programme has in store for the United States.

During a press conference and television interviews here last night and today, Mrs Thatcher herself conceded that Mr Reagan's policies stood a better chance of success, at least because the world recession which has been plaguing both countries appeared to be nearing its end.

In addition to economics, where Mrs Thatcher has taken every opportunity during meetings with reporters to lecture the British leader has also voiced firmly her views on such critical foreign policy issues as East-West relations, the Middle East and El Salvador.

Asked about American evidence of Cuban intervention in the tiny Central American Republic, Mrs Thatcher told a television interviewer: "She thought that there was a very powerful evidence indeed that areas, shipments were reaching left-wing guerrillas there from communist governments. She suspected, however, whether the United States Government should intervene by sending arms to the Government in San Salvador to crush the rebels."

At a lunch state dinner given for Mrs Thatcher by Mr Reagan last night, Mr Alexander Haig, the Secretary of State, told reporters that a few American advisers would be going to El Salvador to take care of themselves. But "you don't have to worry," he assured his listeners. "The United States had no intention of repeating the mistake of getting itself

Continued on page 5, col 1

Archbishop to meet freed Britons at airport

From Mario Modiano
Athens, Feb 27

The three Anglican missionaries who were set free by the Iranian Government after six weeks in jail on falsified spy charges, were spending the night tonight at the British Ambassador's residence in Athens.

Dr John Coleman, his wife, Dr Audrey Coleman and Miss Jean Waddell, will fly to London early tomorrow and hold a press conference at Heathrow airport.

The Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr Runcie, will be at the airport to meet the three on arrival in London today.

Mr Terry Waite, the Archbishop of Canterbury's special envoy to Tehran, who arranged their release and is escorting them to London, said they were all in good health. "They are in remarkably good spirits and have no bitterness," he said.

In fact, Dr and Mrs Coleman's greatest worry, according to Mr Waite, was that they were not at this stage, allowed to continue their work in Iran. They wanted to go back very much.

The three missionaries had travelled in an Iran Air jumbo jet separately from the other passengers, in the upstairs lounge, at Mr Waite's request. He said: "I asked for that to give them a little privacy and peace."

On arrival, the released prisoners met by British Embassy hordes in which they were driven away from Athens airport and a throng of photographers and reporters.

At the embassy residence they had tea with Mr and Mrs Waite, the Ambassador and his wife. Later they rested and prepared statements each of them will deliver at Heathrow tomorrow.

Mr Waite said they had not been telephoned their relatives. "Consider they will be in touch with anyone, their family or anyone else," he said. "There is no sinister reason, simply to give them an opportunity to reorientate after a fairly long time away from everyone."

The Archbishop's representative who met the press and cameras in the British residence lounge, gave assurances that the three missionaries had not been ill-treated at any stage of their six-month incarceration.

In a prepared statement he thanked the Iranian authorities for keeping all their promises to him. "They promised me that the case would be fully and fairly investigated," he said, and it was. All the Anglicans who were in detention, four Iranians and three British, had been released and formally cleared.

He particularly regretted that the fourth detained Briton,



Miss Waddell and Mr Waite leave the aircraft at Athens followed by the Coleman

Two flee by helicopter from French prison

From Charles Hargrove
Paris, Feb 27

Two men made a spectacular escape by helicopter this morning from Fleury-Mérogis prison, south of Paris. It was the first such escape of this kind in French prison history, although not without precedent in the United States.

Gérard Dupré, aged 33, regarded by the police as a dangerous gangster, and Daniel Beaumont, aged 40, serving a sentence for armed robbery, were freed by two accomplices who forced the pilot of a hired helicopter to touch down on the prison football pitch while a group of prisoners were having a game.

The two made a dash for the helicopter, and climbed in. It was off in less than 30 seconds, before the alarm could be given. There were no wardens about at the time: they were all inside the star-shaped buildings of this huge ultramodern prison, built about 20 years ago. Designed to be the last word in prison architecture, it is filled with electronic gadgets, supposed to make it completely escape-proof. (It has failed in the past: three escapes over its walls.)

Centaur helicopter pilots were ordered to give chase. But it was too late, and they never caught sight of the fugitives. They had already touched down on a playing field on the way to Paris near the Port d'Orléans, where 30 schoolboys were having a game.

They told the police they saw four men rush to a green Renault car, waiting for them with its engine ticking over. "A nationwide search has begun," said a police spokesman, "but we believe to have had carefully prepared hide-outs."

By a quirk of French law, even if the fugitives are caught, they cannot be punished. Escape by air is not provided for in the Penal Code. This stipulates that a man can be sentenced to between six months and ten years for tunnelling under the walls, sawing prison bars, or breaking down the door, but not for flying over the walls.

Believe By out, page 5

Sir Harold not to stand again

By Our Political Staff

Sir Harold Wilson, the former Labour Prime Minister, who will be 65 in March, is not seeking re-election for the Huyton, Lancashire, seat which he has held since 1950. Before that, for five years, he was MP for Ormskirk.

The announcement, from the Huyton constituency Labour Party, confirms Sir Harold's statement on television during the last election that he would not stand again.

In accordance with the Labour Party conference decision, the constituency party is setting in train the process to select a successor candidate.

Sir Harold pointed out that his decision was not connected with the prospective formation of the Social Democratic Party. Social Democrat son: Dr Robin Wilson, aged 37, the elder son of Sir Harold, has joined the Countess for Social Democracy.

Dr Wilson, a mathematics lecturer at the Open University, announced his support for the moderate group at a meeting in Oxford.

He said yesterday that his father knew he was trying to join the council and added that if Sir Harold had still been Labour leader his defection would have been unnecessary.

"If he had, there would not have been a swing to the left which has prompted me to leave the party."

Sir Harold had no sympathy for the council, he said.

Photograph, page 2

\$1,710m Chrysler loss is largest ever in US

From Frank Vogl
US Economics Correspondent

Washington, Feb 27.—The Chrysler Corporation today reported a net loss of \$1,710m (£77m), the largest loss ever announced for one year by an American company.

The release of the 1980 financial figures by the ailing company coincided with the decision by the administration to give Chrysler permission to raise \$400m in the markets through a government guaranteed note issue.

Reagan administration officials stress that providing this new loan to Chrysler—in addition to \$900m of such loans last year—does not imply that it approves of building private companies in difficulty.

The decision in principle to provide the new loan to Chrysler was taken by the Carter administration, and Mr Donald Regan, Secretary of the Treasury, felt bound by this to ensure that Chrysler met the conditions.

It seems clear, however, that Chrysler will be back at the Treasury soon to seek approval for the final \$300m of the \$1,700m of secured loans for the company that the Congress legislated last year.

When such an application is made, then for the first time the Reagan administration will be asked on its officially declared policy of not using public funds to rescue private firms.

Chrysler's situation is desperate, Mr Lee Iacocca, chairman,

always an optimist, predicted that a "dramatic improvement" in the financial health of the company would be seen this year. But it depended on lower interest rates and a much stronger United States economy.

Chrysler's loss was what the markets had expected, and it is \$160m greater than the loss recently reported for last year by the Ford Motor Company.

In the final quarter of last year Chrysler had a loss of \$225m, and in 1979 it lost \$1,100m. Last year the company's sales fell by 23 per cent to \$9,230m.

With government backing and an attractive yield the Chrysler notes for \$400m are meeting strong demand in the markets. The notes carry a coupon of 14.9 per cent and were tentatively priced at 98 to produce an effective yield of 15.31 per cent in 1980.

The huge Chrysler deficit, the large loss for Ford and the growing employment problems in the industry are strengthening pressures on the Congress for action to restrict Japanese car imports.

The Reagan administration is now moving swiftly to develop a full-scale strategy for the car industry, which looks like having some degree of trade protectionism as well as an easing of governmental regulations on the industry.

"These factors could brighten the prospects for Chrysler, and some analysts believe that without such moves by Washington the company has no chance of surviving."

Lonrho bid for Fraser goes to monopolies panel

By Philip Robinson

Lonrho's £158m takeover bid for the House of Fraser is to be investigated by the Monopolies and Mergers Commission. This means the bid must lapse for the time being, but Lonrho said yesterday it intends to argue in the investigation and argue its case for buying Britain's largest stores group, which owns Harrods.

Yesterday's announcement by Mr John Biffen, Secretary of State for Trade, sent the Fraser share price plunging 14p at one stage before recovering.

The reference effectively freezes Lonrho's current position in the takeover battle, adding to its stake in Fraser currently 45 million shares equalling 29.337 per cent of the total equity. However, Lonrho will be going ahead with a special meeting next

Wednesday asking shareholders to approve the group's 150p a share takeover.

It was widely expected that with approval, Lonrho would have bought the 30 million shares it needs for control of Fraser on the stock market. It has now to give assurance to the Trade Secretary that this will not happen.

Mr Paul Spicer, a Lonrho director, said last night: "Of course we shall maintain our interest in acquiring House of Fraser through the Monopolies Commission inquiry and we are going ahead with the extraordinary meeting to set shareholders' approval."

"Imagine a good body of shareholders were hoping for 150p in their hands, and I imagine a referral will make them feel they are at least several months' patient away from their shares. If the Monopolies Commission approves, the takeover will be a done deal."

Continued on page 19, col 2

England tour remains under cloud

By Our Sports Staff

The England cricket team left Guyana yesterday with fears that the Barbados tour would also be in jeopardy because of his South African connections. England were told by the Cricket Council not to play the second Test match against the West Indies today after a deportation order was served on Jackman by the Guyanese Government.

Mr Don Blackman, the Barbados Sports Minister, said that he had to study documents from the Ministry of External Affairs before he could advise his Government what action to take and give no assurance. The Foreign Office in London have urged British diplomats in the Caribbean to do "everything they can" to resolve the matter.

The Foreign Office instruction has been sent to the High Commissioners on the remaining legs of the tour: Mr John Drinkall, in Jamaica; Mr Stanley Arhin, in Barbados; and Sir Edward "Dick" Fossett in Antigua.

A Foreign Office spokesman said: "We would expect the commissioners to do everything they can to resolve the problem. They will try to pour oil on troubled waters if they arise again."

The England party were moving from Georgetown, Guyana, to Barbados in the hope of keeping the tour going for a month at least. The reversion from Lord's yesterday was that England would refuse to play in the Barbados Test match if they could not choose from all the players.

The Test and County Cricket Board's secretary, Mr Harold Carr, said yesterday: "We have been given one part of our required reassurances—that Jackman can enter Barbados. Whether he will be able to play there is still not known. You can assume that if Jackman is barred from playing, we shall take the same action as in Guyana."

Guyana difficulties, page 7

More water men join strike action over pay

More water workers have joined in unofficial strike action to protest at a pay offer of about 13 per cent which they are being urged to accept. In other wage challenges, air traffic controllers at Heathrow have indicated their willingness to strike on March 9 and leaders of 450,000 nurses and midwives have presented a 15 per cent claim. Page 2

Million marchers in Madrid defy bombs

Undeterred by four bombs which went off along their route, a million people marched through the streets of Madrid last night to condemn the officers' plot to seize power. Three generals are under arrest. Page 4

Hain home attacked

Bricks were thrown through the front windows of the home in south London of Mr Peter Hain, prospective Labour candidate for Wandsworth, Putney, who is well known as an anti-apartheid campaigner. His name and address, and those of other supporters of the Anti-Nazi League, have appeared in a National Front newsletter. Page 3

Synod leaves debate on homosexuality open

The General Synod of the Church of England has voted overwhelmingly not to pass judgment on homosexuality, nor debate any motions implying disapproval. The Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr Runcie, preferred to regard it as a handicap rather than a sin or sickness. Page 3

Northern Ireland: Increasing fears of "loyalists" have prompted attempts to revive workers' council brought down power-sharing executive in 1974. Page 2

West Bank: Jewish settlers receive their first visit from Mr Begin. Page 5

2,000 redundancies

The continuing decline of British industry was reflected in the loss of more than 2,000 jobs in the motor components, chemical, steel, and engineering industries. But in Scotland, 1,500 construction equipment staff are returning to full-time working and Tesco, the supermarket chain, announced a 600-job development in Leicester. Page 19

Home News	2-4	Court	15	Parliament	6	TV & Radio	9
European News	4	Crossword	26	Sale Room	7-12	Theatres, etc	10, 11
Overseas News	5, 6	Engagements	16	Sat Review	7-12	Travel	12
Appointments	16	Features	18	Science	13	25 Years Ago	13
Arts	8	Gardening	20	Services	14	Universities	16
Bridge	12	Law Report	25	Shops and	15	Weather	17
Chess	19-23	Letters	16	Snow reports	15	Wills	16
Obituary	11						

6	TV & Radio	9
7-12	Theatres, etc	10, 11
13	Travel	12
14	25 Years Ago	13
15	Universities	16
16	Weather	17
17	Wills	16

SAVE & PROSPECT GROUP

Advertisement for Save & Prospect Group, featuring a large illustration of a person and text about investment opportunities.

HOME NEWS

Aldermaston scientist quits after rebuke for appearance on TV

Mr Trevor Brown, a senior scientist at the Atomic Weapons Research Establishment, Aldermaston, who received a severe rebuke from the Ministry of Defence for speaking on television without permission, said yesterday that he was to retire early because he felt his career prospects had been damaged.

Mr Brown is 58 and was not due to retire for seven years. He was disciplined last November after criticising safety standards at the research establishment on a *Newsnight* programme, "Is Aldermaston safe?"

He said yesterday: "I am in an unhappy situation. I had wanted to complete my career and achieve a proper fulfilment of it, but the rebuke has damaged my prospects."

He has been with the Atomic Energy Authority since 1948 and moved to Aldermaston in 1961 because of his reputation for handling difficult and dangerous fuel processors. He is a Liberal county councillor.

Mr Brown said he did not wish to retire but was forced to do so because of the severe rebuke. He would have to find part-time work to support his family and the rebuke would severely damage his career prospects in safety and allied fields.

in brief

Hospital waiting lists reduced

The number of people waiting for surgical operations has been reduced by 111,000 in the year to 641,000, the Department of Health and Social Security announced yesterday.

Mr Gerald Vaughan, Minister for Health, said it was a "significant achievement" and that he would like to congratulate all the staff who have done so much to bring this about.

Mr Burke's Peerage fraud inquiry alleged

Mr David Haring, aged 25, of Hall 3, St John's Wood, London, was charged yesterday with fraud and conspiracy to defraud in connection with the sale of *Mr Burke's Peerage*.

Plans plan opposed

The Broadbent Authority yesterday decided to tell the story of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food that the scheme would cause considerable changes to the landscape. If the ministry supported the scheme, the authority would call for a new inquiry.

Verdict reserved

Justice Mustill reserved his verdict in the High Court yesterday on the £24m insurance claim against a Lloyd's syndicate over the oil cargo that had been lost from the tanker *Exxon* before she was allegedly off the coast of West Africa in January last year.

Death by starvation

An open verdict was recorded yesterday on the inquest into the death of Mrs Nanti Chand, 50, who died of starvation in a prison for a week after the death of her husband in India in 1979. She was found dead in a cell about 11 stones to five.

Fail to agree

Sergeant Alexander Brown, aged 38, of Bushy Park, Walsby, was accused yesterday of conspiring to defraud a jury at the Central Criminal Court failed to agree on a verdict. Judge QC discharged them.

1000 ambush

Five masked men, one of whom was shot, ambushed a post office van yesterday on Woodrough Lane, Bordesley Park, Birmingham, yesterday. The van was carrying £22,000. The van was fired, police said.

Her stole ties

Ms Hilton, aged 55, the wife of a Lord, was fined £50 at Leeds Magistrates' Court yesterday for admitting stealing a whole fish from a self-service whole fish bar.

Sit for 27 seconds

A jury in the "handless" murder and drug trial of a Crown Court judge was told yesterday that the judge had been in court for 27 seconds.

Py emblem

Mark council, London, yesterday decided to rename the old newspaper *The South-East*.

1st of Iranian students in Embassy protest fined £5

The last of the 72 Iranian students who were arrested in violent clashes with the police in the anti-American demonstration outside the British Embassy in London last summer, was fined £5 yesterday.

Mr Nifforoush, aged 24, said that after the hearing at Marlborough Street Magistrates' Court, London: "I am very upset that so many of my Muslim brothers were deported."

All but a few of the arrested Iranians had refused to give their names and addresses, and so went into prison. The magistrates refused to grant them bail without knowing their identity.

They started hunger strikes in protest and eventually 46 were deported on recommendations from the courts.

Mr Nifforoush, who is in his

Woman tells of night ordeal after plane crash

Miss Julie Hanson, aged 24, who escaped with three men from the wreckage of a burning aircraft and survived a night in freezing conditions on an open hillside spoke yesterday of her ordeal.

She was in the light aircraft that crashed on Thursday in the Ochil Hills north of Strirling.

Miss Hanson, of Fenwick, near Kilmarnock, and Mr Eusebi, aged 19, of Mount Vernon, Glasgow, had just been discharged from hospital.

The pilot, Mr Ronald Harris, aged 35, a hypothermia sufferer, was found in a ditch in the hills of Fenwick, near Kilmarnock, with facial and ankle injuries and frostbite in both feet.

Another passenger, Mr Allan Foley, aged 27, of Prestwick, Ayrshire, is in the intensive therapy unit of Perth Royal Infirmary with chest burns. Both he and Mr Eusebi are traffic control assistants at Prestwick.

Miss Hanson, who is Mr Harris's receptionist, said: "We left Dundee about 8.40 pm. It was quite turbulent. We came through the cloud. I think the aircraft iced up."

"Everything happened so quickly. The plane hit the ground, there was an explosion and it burst into flames."

"Ronnie was first out, then the man next to him and I was third. The other chap couldn't get out, so Ronnie went back and dragged him clear."

They started to walk to a farmhouse but Mr Foley could not keep up.

"We just cuddled up together until it became light, then sent Ronnie for help. He found a farmhouse and we were picked up by an RAF helicopter."

Mr Hain blames Front for attack on his house

By Ian Bradley

The home in south London of Mr Peter Hain, the anti-apartheid campaigner, was attacked early yesterday morning.

Mr Hain believes the attack comes after the appearance of his name and address in a list of "local scum" in the *South London News*, a newsletter published by the Wandsworth and Lambeth branches of the National Front.

The National Front yesterday denied all knowledge of the incident.

Mr Hain said: "My wife and I were sitting in our kitchen at the back of the house having a cup of tea just after midnight when we heard a loud crash."

"I went to the front of the house and found that bricks had been thrown through the front windows. A group of people were running away shouting 'National Front', 'National Front'."

He said about £100 of damage was done to his windows.

Mr Hain's name has twice appeared with those of other supporters of the Anti-Nazi League in the newsletter.

An edition published last autumn carried a list of 14 people, the front page said: "We believe that the time has come to launch a war of nerves against the Anti-Nazi League using terror tactics."

Mr Hain said that after the appearance of the newsletter, which is sold in the streets for 10p, he received "a stream of threatening phone calls."

A further edition of the newsletter, distributed earlier this month, carried a list of 21 names, including those of Mr Hain, Miriam Karlin, the actress, and Mr Jonathan Dimbleby, the television journalist.



Mr Hain at a smashed window in his house in south London yesterday.

Mr Hain said he thought he had been singled out for attack because of the publicity about his adoption last week as a Labour prospective parliamentary candidate for Wandsworth, Putney.

He is going to Scotland Yard on Wednesday with Mr Alfred Dubs, Labour MP for Wandsworth, Battersea, South, to discuss the incident with the police.

Mr Michael Salt, a member of the national directorate of the National Front and press officer of the Wandsworth branch, said the names and addresses of local members of

the Anti-Nazi League and other left-wing parties were published in the newsletter because "we want to make it clear to them that since they have been busy attacking us we want to show that our intelligence network is quite as good as theirs and we can give as good as we get."

He said he had no knowledge of the attack on Mr Hain's house and said: "If I did hear it was our members I would be very annoyed. Merely because people chant 'National Front' it does not mean they belong to us."

He went on: "We have been working on the assumption

that violence does pay. It has been used on us by the left and as a result some of our weaker members have dropped out."

Mr Salt, who lives in Battersea, said that his own home had been attacked by members of the Anti-Nazi League and other left-wing groups who had poured paraffin under his front door and tried to set light to it.

Wing mirrors had been torn off his car and matchsticks stuck in to the tyres, he said.

"It is only human nature that when you are subjected to these sorts of harassment, as many National Front members have, you want to hit back."

Wheelchair trails for national parks

From John Chartres, Keswick

Wheelchair trails, graded like mountain routes as easy, moderate, or difficult, are to be sought and identified in all British national parks.

Experiments, partly financed by the Countryside Commission, are to be conducted into the design of a cross-country wheelchair for adventurous disabled people.

Those were the main decisions reached yesterday at the end of a two-day conference initiated by the Calvert Trust Adventure Centre for the Disabled near Keswick, supported by the Countryside Commission and attended by senior officers from all national parks and by a number of disabled people.

The idea of identifying and mapping cross-country routes and trails accessible to disabled people in wheelchairs was put forward by Mr Anthony Chapman, reserves officer of the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, himself a wheelchair user.

He said that he and his friends would make recommendations on the sort of terrain and gradients that "average wheelers" could cope with.

Considerable opposition was expressed at the conference by the disabled delegates to any projects that would involve building access roads to quiet and remote areas, such as Dartmoor, especially for them.

Such provisions might defeat the main object because able bodied people in cars and on motor cycles would take advantage of them and solitude and quietness would be lost.

Considerable interest was, however, expressed in the "stymie gate" designed by a member of the staff of Essex county council. It permits the passage of a wheelchair, but not a motor cycle. Several ideas for "cross-country wheelchairs" were discussed informally, like versions of golf "buggies" used extensively in the United States.

Mr John Davidson, acting director of the Countryside Commission, indicated that he thought spending part of his department's £10m a year budget to increase disabled people's enjoyment of the countryside would be fully justified under his terms of reference.

The conference, held at the Calvert Trust, which provides facilities for disabled people to ride, sail, fish, explore the countryside, watch birds and take part in other outdoor activities, was called as a contribution to the 1981 International Year of Disabled People.

Life and leisure: Collections range from the obscure to disaster mail

Philately the hobby of kings and coal miners

By Cyril Bainbridge

It used to be a matter of buying a bumper packet of old stamps and sticking them into an album under their respective countries. But philately has grown into something approaching a science and a study of the history of communication.

The specialized nature of modern philately has been apparent at the annual Stampex exhibition, in its final day today at the Royal Horticultural Halls in London, where dealers' stands are stocked with carefully categorized varieties of stamps and covers from architecture to zeppelins.

"The days of collecting the stamps of the world are almost finished," Mr Eric Etkin, chairman of the Philatelic

Traders' Society, said. "Collectors nowadays mostly concentrate on a particular theme or subject."

Collecting has been extended to cover postal stationery and the time when letters were handed to the captain of a ship and the fee recorded in writing on the cover; wartime campaigns; the history of aviation.

Other popular themes include wild life preservation, flowers, industry and royal stamps. Some are obscure: one man I came across collects Norwegian missionary stamps from Madagascar.

Some themes are macabre, like those of collectors of disaster mail, letters that survived the sinking of the Lusitania or air crashes, perhaps with signs

of burning on the envelope, or letters that have suffered from the effects of hurricanes or floods.

Many collectors start in philately as a youthful hobby. Often interest is aroused in school philately groups where the collecting of stamps can make general history and geography more interesting subjects.

Most new collectors seek advice from stamp dealers. There are also philatelic societies in most areas, affiliated to the British Philatelic Federation.

"You may eventually become an expert in your particular theme and you can then share your knowledge with other collectors by writing on your subject," Mr Etkin said.

coming genuine collectors with an interest in a certain field of the history of communication. The scope is endless."

The themes are countless: early ship letters, dating from the time when letters were handed to the captain of a ship and the fee recorded in writing on the cover; wartime campaigns; the history of aviation.

Other popular themes include wild life preservation, flowers, industry and royal stamps. Some are obscure: one man I came across collects Norwegian missionary stamps from Madagascar.

Some themes are macabre, like those of collectors of disaster mail, letters that survived the sinking of the Lusitania or air crashes, perhaps with signs

Reprimand for police chief after inquiry

A senior police chief was reprimanded yesterday after an investigation into complaints against him.

Mr Harry Atkinson, assistant chief constable of Avon and Somerset, appeared before the Police Authority at a private meeting in Bristol. The authority was considering a report by Mr David Owen, Chief Constable of Dorset.

Mr Atkinson was told that no formal proceedings could be taken because those who complained did not want to pursue their case.

The police refused to disclose the nature of the complaints, but confirmed that the authority had "expressed their concern" to Mr Atkinson, and had asked Mr Ian Crawford, the chairman, and Mr Brian Weight, the Chief Constable, to give him "appropriate advice."

Hailsham prison evidence

By Staff Reporter

Lord Hailsham of St Marylebone, the Lord Chancellor, and Mr William Whitelaw, Home Secretary, are to appear before the Commons Home Affairs Select Committee as part of a further investigation by MPs on prison overcrowding.

It is the first time that the Lord Chancellor has given evidence before one of the new departmental select committees. He will appear on March 23.

The committee, under Sir Graham Page, Conservative MP for Crosby, has been studying the administration of the prison department. But after evidence from groups such as the Magistrates' Association and Justices' Clerks' Society it has decided that the crucial issue is the prison problem.

Mr William Waldegrave, Conservative MP for Bristol, West, said: "The work of the Prison Department highlighted the fact that everything depended on the overcrowding problem and we have decided to home in on that."

Another committee member, Mr Robert Kilroy-Silk, Labour MP for Ormskirk, who moved to wind up the inquiry on the department, said he did not believe that it had been making progress.

"We could not make any really sensible suggestions when what we should have been addressing ourselves to was the crucial issue of prison overcrowding. If we did anything else, we could not be seen to be relevant."

The MPs will consider whether through a new approach to sentencing and other measures the prison population might be brought down to reduce demand on funds available for the prison building programme.

The Home Secretary, who will give evidence on March 16, will be asked if there could be better coordination between the department, the Home Office and the Lord Chancellor's department.

The committee will hear evidence again from the Prison Officers' Association. It will then meet in private on March 9 to arrange details of the next part of the investigation



The Prince of Wales wearing a handkerchief turban at a Sikh temple in Derby yesterday.

Sikhs share Prince's joy over engagement

The Prince of Wales sat cross-legged on the floor of a Sikh temple with his head covered by a handkerchief, and said he wished Lady Diana Spencer could have been with him.

Re had heard a religious leader say it had been his fiancée, but that now he had, the Sikh community shared his joy.

The prince, who was visiting Derby's immigrant areas, said he and his fiancée had been "enormously touched by the response to their engagement."

The prince, who took his shoes off and wore a garland of flowers, said he had happy memories of a visit to the Golden Temple in Amritsar during his trip to India last year. The warmth of the welcome had been overwhelming.

The Prince delighted young West Indians at the Madeley Centre by joining in a disco dancing demonstration and earned the admiration of the group's leader, Mr Anthony Stanley. "The Prince had good rhythm and some really good moves," he said.

At the Ukrainian Association Club, the Prince drank rye-based vodka, watched the dancing and then accepted an invitation to make part.

At the Polish Club near by he refused sherry and drank another vodka, smashing his glass on the floor in the traditional manner.

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HOME NEWS

Ruling shifts vast workload to justices and their clerks

Efficiency of magistrates' courts administration under threat

By Marcel Berlins
Legal Correspondent

The efficient administration of justice in the magistrates' courts is under threat, after a decision by the Queen's Bench Divisional Court on Thursday restricting the number of people who are entitled to decide whether a summons should be issued. Justices' clerks intend to press for a change in the law.

The court's decision (reported in yesterday's *Times* Law Report) was to the effect that information (the complaint that forms the basis of a prosecution) could be laid only by magistrates or by a justices' clerk, but not by assistants to the justices' clerks. There is

unlikely to be an appeal against the decision.

The ruling, though technical in nature, will have far-reaching consequences. Up to now, the practice has been that decisions to issue a summons in routine cases, the bulk of magistrates' court work, has been taken by qualified court clerks who are barristers, solicitors, law graduates, or holders of a diploma in magistrates' court law.

They deal with perhaps as much as 90 per cent of information laid. As a result of Thursday's ruling, all that work, millions of cases through the country, has to be done by magistrates or by the justices' clerk himself.

In Bristol, for example, about 50,000 summonses a year are issued. The justices' clerk, Mr Gerald Sullivan, the honorary secretary of the Justices' Clerks Society, has 10 qualified court clerks under him who have been competent to deal with the vast majority of informations laid.

Now that those clerks will no longer be allowed to make those decisions, the burden will fall on Bristol's lay magistrates, who are already working to full capacity.

Moreover, as the magistrates are not themselves lawyers, they may need the assistance of qualified clerks to help them decide whether to issue summonses.

Press body challenge to 'Observer' deal

By Dan van der Vat

The Press Council yesterday took the unusual step of calling publicly for the planned takeover of *The Observer* by Lorrho to be referred to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission.

Normally the Press Council confines its activities to adjudicating in cases of complaints against newspapers. Its findings do not have the force of law, but there is a convention that newspapers publish its verdicts voluntarily, even when adverse.

In a statement yesterday the council said: "The clear intention of the Fair Trading Act and the Monopolies and Mergers Act is that newspaper takeovers involving circulations of more than 500,000 should be subject to government approval and scrutiny by the monopolies commission."

The exception is where the takeover is a newspaper publishing its own news. There is no suggestion that this is the case with *The Observer*, no warning of its sale."

The statement, from Mr Keith Morgan, the council's secretary, who was previously

general secretary of the National Union of Journalists, went on to reveal: "Last month the council unsuccessfully urged that the sale of Times Newspapers Ltd should be examined by the monopolies commission before being given government approval."

"For the Government now to approve a second major national newspaper takeover as a fair *accomplish* without an inquiry would be a serious blow to the credibility of legislation enacted to protect the public from increasing concentration of newspaper ownership in fewer hands."

"The Press Council itself has a duty laid on it by the first Royal Commission on the Press to report publicly on developments that tend towards greater concentration of ownership in the press," Mr Morgan concluded. As far as could be established last night, the statement was the first public indication that the council had intervened in the takeover of Times Newspapers by Mr Rupert Murdoch from the Thomson Organisation.

Up to £7.50 offered printing trade staff

Labour Staff and employers' negotiators reached agreement on pay deal for 150,000 in the general printing industry which yields increases of between £7.50 and £6.60 a week. The deal is being recommended by union leaders.

Under the agreement, the new minimum for production workers will be £37.50 a week. New national agreements between the three unions and the British Printing Industries Federation will run from April 24.

Members of the National Graphical Association, National

Society of Operative Printers, Graphical and Media Personnel, and Society of Graphical and Allied Trades will be consulted on the offer in ballots.

The increases will count for shift and overtime payments, but no new money will be added to bonus rates for the first five months of the agreement, after which bonuses will rise by half of the increase for each grade of worker.

Agreement has also been reached with the NGA on the introduction of productivity clauses and new working methods.

Gold snuff-boxes stolen in raid on museum

From Ronald Kershaw
Leeds

Thieves broke into Temple Newsam House, on the outskirts of Leeds, to take 10 gold snuff-boxes valued at £400,000, and escaped within minutes.

A new security system which summoned the police to the remote house within six minutes of the break-in was breached, and Mr Robert Rowe, Leeds City Council Director of Art Galleries, said last night: "Basically it was a smash-and-grab raid."



Plymouth Hoe ban on peace rally is expected

By John Witherow

An anti-nuclear peace rally is expected to be banned from Plymouth Hoe for political reasons nine months after Mr Wedgwood Benn addressed trade unionists on the same site.

The meeting, which had attracted the two peace campaigners, Lord Noel-Baker and Lord Brockway, both aged 92, was due to take place on the Saturday before Easter April 18, as part of a series of demonstrations throughout Europe against nuclear weapons.

But the Conservative-controlled Plymouth City Council special events subcommittee decided on Wednesday that the rally should not proceed because it did not want political meetings on Plymouth Hoe and because the organizing group was not nationally recognized.

The recommendation will now go before the council's leisure services committee on Thursday, where an alternative site for the meeting may be discussed. Labour members of the

council, which owns Plymouth Hoe, are largely opposed to the ban.

Mr Thomas Savery, the chairman of both committees, said the meeting addressed by Mr Benn on the TUC Day of Action last May had been allowed to go ahead because the TUC was a nationally recognized body.

The organizers of the anti-nuclear Easter rally, the Plymouth United Peace Action Group, said it was a local umbrella organization for such national and international groups as the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament, the Women's Disarmament Campaign and Friends of the Earth.

"I would consider those national organizations," Mrs Julie Brock, one of the organizers, said. "I think it is shocking that a peace rally which is a non-political event should be banned. Peace is somehow a dirty word today."

The group intends to go ahead with a march through the city to the Charles Church Memorial.

Judge settles Clarkson's dispute

A dispute over who is entitled to what from the remnants of Clarkson's Holidays, the travel company that crashed in 1974, ended in the High Court yesterday.

Mr Justice Nourse ruled that the Air Travel Reserve Agency, which helped to compensate disappointed Clarkson customers, could lay claim to part of Clarkson's liquidation payout.

Four banks and another financial company who, under a trust agreement involving the Tour Operator's Group Trust Fund Ltd, also helped to pay the compensation bill to customers, were, the judge

ruled, not entitled to claim. Lawyers said after yesterday's judgment that the effect was that the Air Travel Reserve Agency will be entitled to claim an estimated £200,000.

The banks, Barclays, Lloyds, National Westminster and Williams and Glyn's and Watniss Securities Ltd, will get nothing, save a small sum of interest due on bond money.

The £200,000 likely to be recovered is, however, only a fraction of the sums paid out to Clarkson customers. In a claim made 10 days after the company crashed, about 34,000 holidaymakers had to be got back

to the United Kingdom, the judge said.

The immediate cost of repatriating and maintaining customers who were stranded abroad at the time of the crash amounted to nearly £1m.

In addition, customers who had lost their holidays were repaid their money in full. The judge referred to sums totaling more than £4m paid out by the Air Travel Reserve Agency and the banks.

The cost of the High Court action is estimated at £250,000 and the judge has reserved his decision on who should pay them.

WEST EUROPE

China sends Dutch Ambassador home

From Robert Schull
The Hague, Feb 27

China has asked the Dutch to recall their Ambassador from Peking because the Netherlands refuses to stop the sale of two submarines to Taiwan.

Mr Andries van Agt, the Prime Minister, told Parliament today that "the contents and the timing of the Chinese request had not come as a surprise". The Chinese Ambassador to The Hague, Mr Ding Xuesong, is not to return to The Netherlands, which she left in October.

This decision to reduce diplomatic relations with The Netherlands to the lowest possible level should be breaking them off completely, followed yesterday's third debate in less than three months in the lower House on the Cabinet's decision to go ahead with the submarine sale.

The Government faces a vote next week in the House on two opposition motions tabled yesterday, one a motion of censure, and another a motion of "disapproval" over the Cabinet's refusal to carry out the House's wishes.

At the beginning of this month, the House carried a motion supported by 11 members of the ruling Christian Democrats asking the Government to reconsider its decision to grant the export licence to the Rijk-Schelde-Versluis shipyard in Rotterdam. But Mr van Agt told Parliament yesterday that the Cabinet was legally bound to stand by its earlier commitment to the shipyard.

It has now become clear, that the 11 Christian Democrats who voted against the Government will not vote for either of the motions tabled yesterday. They are therefore expected to be rejected.

Peking contracts lost: The Chinese decision was announced in a note handed to the Dutch Ambassador, Mr Jan Kneppelhout, at the Foreign Ministry (Reuters reports from Peking).

The Chinese Government reiterates its demand that Sino-Dutch diplomatic relations be downgraded to the level of chargé d'affaires and proposes that negotiations on the matter be held as soon as possible," the note said.

It claimed that the sale was an unacceptable interference in China's internal affairs and an infringement of its sovereignty.

The Dutch stand has already hit commercial relations between the two countries, with the cancellation of several existing contracts, according to Chinese officials.

The Dutch are also selling Taiwan equipment worth about \$250m (£100m) for conventional and nuclear power stations. The Chinese Government has not objected to this sale.

China and the Netherlands stand the status of their envoys from chargé d'affaires to ambassador in 1972.



Spaniards march through Madrid last night in protest at the attempted coup.

Million march through Madrid in condemnation of officers' plot

From Richard Wigg
Madrid, Feb 27

Many hundreds of thousands marched in a two-hour procession through Madrid tonight in support of the democratic Constitution. Condemning the officers who tried to seize power on Monday, they chanted: "Democracy yes, dictatorship no" and "Long live the King".

Police said about a million took part, headed by the leaders of the four main political parties in Parliament. The marchers were under a heavy rain which exploded in the past along their route half an hour after the demonstration began.

But although nobody was hurt, the marchers' mood grew tense. Similar marches were held tonight in other Spanish cities. In Barcelona an estimated 300,000 took part, and in Valencia 350,000.

As suspicion grew that leading generals had been involved in Monday's conspiracy, the Spanish Government today appointed General José María García Escudero, an Air Force judicial expert, to head the inquiry into the abortive coup.

Three senior generals are now under arrest and a fourth

has been relieved of his command. In addition the arrest has been announced of two Army colonels and a major, a naval captain and 15 officers seconded to the National Guard.

The Defence Ministry has said there was evidence to suggest that Lieutenant-General Alfonso Armada, deputy chief of the Army staff and one of those under arrest, had taken part in the plot "with the intention of becoming head of government".

Besides Lieutenant-General Jaime Milans del Bosch, who was arrested on Tuesday for having declared a state of emergency in the Valencia region without consultation, the Defence Ministry said Major-General Luis Torres Rojas, the military governor of the Canary Islands, had been arrested.

General Torres was sent to Galicia in January last year after being suddenly dismissed from command of the elite Brunete armoured division stationed north of Madrid amid rumours of a plot which the Suárez Government then denied. It has now emerged he was back in Madrid last Sunday.

Major-General Pizarro, head of the Maestrazgo division, stationed in Valencia, is the general who has been relieved of his command. Colonel José San Martín López, who is under arrest, was head of the Brunete division's general staff.

Major Ricardo Palma, also arrested, had charge of the military police unit from the same armoured division, habitually thought of as crucial in any move to seize Madrid. This police unit reached the Cortes on Monday night and joined the rebel officers.

Major Palma is alleged to be a member of the "Almond Trees" group of serving officers and right-wing civilians who wrote a series of inflammatory articles in *El Alcornoque*, the daily of the civil war veterans' association, which the Judge Advocate is now also expected to examine.

According to some versions, the daily was the vehicle for a campaign against democracy, together with an obscure tour journal monthly which it has now been discovered included, perhaps in coded language, the precise date for the coup.

Malta police arrest editors over bomb story

From Our Correspondent
Valletta, Feb 27

The editors of two daily newspapers, together with reporters, have been held for questioning by the police over the past 48 hours after reports their papers carried about a bomb attack earlier in the week.

Last night the editor and a reporter of *The Times* (formerly *The Times of Malta*) an independent publication, were detained and on Wednesday night the acting editor and a reporter of *In-Nazzjon Tagħna* (Our Nation) were held.

The latter paper, an organ for the opposition Nationalist Party, is now no longer allowed to carry the word *Nazzjon* in its masthead since this word, together with that of *Malta* is banned by the authorities.

The report the papers carried concerned a bomb thrown at a delegation of the Federation of Industries as it was leaving the headquarters of the Malta Development Corporation, a Government body.

In-Nazzjon Tagħna also carried a picture of a fragment of the explosive.

The police and the Department of Information later issued a joint statement to the effect that investigations had brought nothing to light and that the reports were obviously published to cause public alarm.

Two nights ago the police went to the Nationalist Party printing press and asked for, and were given, the fragment of explosive. They took the editor and a reporter to police headquarters for interrogation.

The editor was released afterwards. After interrogating the reporter they removed his shoe laces and confined him to a cell until this morning.

The feeling is that the Government, continually under attack on several issues, not least the courts reform Bill, has decided to tighten the screws on the section of the press not amenable to its policy.

Nato missile pads go astray

Oslo, Feb 27—Norwegian state railway officials were unable to explain today how a wagonload of launch pads for Nato rockets was misdirected to East Germany.

The wagon went astray in Sweden while in transit between the Norwegian towns of Narvik and Bergen, officials said. It was finally found in Sassnitz in East Germany and was immediately returned to Norway—Reuters.

Cast-iron defence

Rome, Feb 27—Bulletproof vests, raincoats and briefcases will be made available to all Italian magistrates who want them the Justice Ministry announced.

Greeks say earthquake peril over

From Mario Modiano
Athens, Feb 27

Mr Nondas Solomouas, secretary general of the Greek tourist organization, has reassured all foreign planners to spend their holidays in Greece, that they will be perfectly safe from earthquakes.

There had been concern among tour operators abroad, he said today, after the collapse of four hotels and the death of four tourists near the Gulf of Corinth, epicentre of the severe earthquakes on Tuesday and Wednesday.

Mr Solomouas said: "There are about 1,000 hotels in the area and they have withstood the powerful shocks well. Besides, there are reports in the press today that the centre of the earthquakes is moving away from Greece eastwards."

M Barre ends silence to outline job schemes

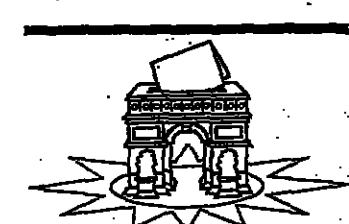
From Charles Hargrove
Paris, Feb 27

Mr Raymond Barre, the French Prime Minister, has ended his silence of the past 10 days to inform the press about the Government's latest measures to increase employment.

Whatever the reasons, the government's performance in this field is not a good one and the candidates in the presidential campaign are concentrating their criticism on this weak point in its four-and-a-half years' record.

The National Statistical Institute's latest forecast shows that the unemployment in the number of job-seekers in the first half of this year.

M François Mitterrand, the



French Presidential Election

Socialist leader, declared two days ago in the new party newspaper *Combat Socialiste* that 200,000 jobs could be created for one-fifth of the cost of present unemployment benefits.

M Georges Marchais, the Communist leader, claimed at

a meeting this week that President Giscard d'Estaing and employers had deliberately provoked the present rate of unemployment, to call on the state to return to full employment was possible. To begin with, he said, 3.5 million new jobs must be created between now and 1987.

M Jacques Chirac, speaking yesterday to economic journalists, did not mention any targets, but emphasized that a reduction in unemployment depended on creating a new "state of mind" in industry rather than on financial or other incentives. "To fight joblessness and inflation, the essential thing is to restore confidence," he said.

M Barre outlined yesterday four measures decided on by the Cabinet to preserve or

create 200,000 jobs in 1981. They are: to double to 400,000 the number of young people receiving professional training; to call on the employers' federation to create 100,000 part-time jobs in the private sector while the Government creates 50,000 in the public sector; to encourage employers to resort more often to short-time working to avoid laying off staff; and to encourage for the time being retirement before the age of 60.

The Prime Minister, who spoke to the press instead of René Monory, the Economics Minister, emphasized that the Government was determined to do everything in its power to increase employment, as long as it did not lead to a deterioration in the economic and financial situation.

East Germans censured on human rights

From Alan McGregor
Geneva, Feb 27

East Germany has been censured in the United Nations Human Rights Commission for denying its citizens the right to emigrate, according to reliable sources here.

The decision today, by a one-vote majority in the 43-nation commission, is the first time a Soviet bloc country has been thus condemned in the United Nations for a "consistent pattern" of human rights violations.

Also by a one-vote majority, this body, meeting here in private last September, decided the communications relating to East Germany constituted a prima facie case to be referred to the full commission.

Italian MPs unsettled by test of voting loyalty

From Peter Nichols
Rome, Feb 27

The Chamber of Deputies lived one of its most frustrating days today with the coalition government's insistence on turning six consecutive divisions on fairly unimportant issues into votes of confidence.

The issue concerns increasing the pension rate and the way in which cost-of-living increases are calculated. This calculation is now made every six months; under the Government's new proposals it will be every four months.

The Government has had to turn to this cumbersome measure of legislating by vote of confidence for fear that some of its theoretical supporters would take advantage of a secret vote to oppose the

measure. A vote of confidence is taken by roll-call and so is public.

This is the third time that Signor Arnaldo Forlani's coalition government's insistence on confidence votes in its first months of existence, and the result is widely seen as depriving the measure of its real significance.

The reason why the coalition parties are suspected of possible disloyalty is attributed to the forthcoming local government elections due in the spring in, among other places, Rome.

Signor Clelio Darida, the minister ostensibly dealing with administrative reform, is reported in an interview to be published this weekend by the weekly *L'Espresso* as saying that Signor Forlani's reputation as a mediator was not sufficient.

Britain's envoy leaving Bonn for retirement

From Patricia Clough
Bonn, Feb 27

The most popular ambassador Britain has had in Bonn, Sir Oliver Wright, will board a British frigate at Hamburg on Monday to go into retirement. Sir Oliver has been defusing West German antagonism over Britain's behaviour with a disarmament business wrapped up in a British product, German wine.

When things got rough, he would quote Konrad Adenauer, the federal republic's first Chancellor: "Take people as they are—there isn't any other kind."

An unassuming figure with brightly coloured shirts some times frayed at the cuffs, Sir Wright was a simple man. Sir Oliver inspired the kind of press coverage that any politician would envy.

British farmers cannot count across and start ploughing in continental fields, he would say, so it is understandable why British fishermen should be angry at other Europeans making in on their fishing ground.

He will be succeeded by Sir Jock Taylor, formerly Ambassador to The Netherlands.

Italian extradited

Brescia, Italy, Feb 27. Marco Donat Cattin, the year-old son of a prominent Christian Democrat politician, was extradited from France to Italy where he faces trial in Turin on five murder charges. He was arrested in Paris in December.

OVERSEAS

Refugees live in soccer field to escape from El Salvador killers

From Michael Leaman
San Salvador, Feb 27

Nearly 1,000 refugees, mostly women and children, who have fled from their homes to avoid falling victim to the murderous national fighting in El Salvador, are living on a football field in one of the better areas of the capital, not far from the Archbishop's palace.

The concrete terraces along the touchline are perfect for lying down, and the pitch, though not sun-baked, is a welcome change from the tower of Babel in the city which last erupted in 1917.

The women do their washing communal scrubbing boards behind one of the goals. Not far away, others use the stone steps to grind corn for their tortillas. They pick up the bits of dough and press it into a round, then they are taking the flat, round pieces of bread on wood-burning stoves. The Indians did a thousand years ago.

The corn and the beans they eat with them are supplied by the Roman Catholic Relief Organization. The church, El Salvador has become identified with the left, which is why many church supporters have been victims of right-wing militia attacks.

At night, as the refugees—by a small percentage of those in this country—go to sleep in air mattresses slung in flimsy awnings, the high metal gate the field is shut and they are protected from attack by a tall, why built brick wall.

In the dust round their stoves, many with running, infected eyes but only a few of the distended bellies that defy under-nourishment. One mother glumly picked her from a daughter's matted hair.

Three football fields have served as a refuge for the last year, but the claim that the conditions here are among the best endured by refugees over the world. Yet here, in the centre of the capital, their crowded camp is a symbol of the country's self-inflicted tragedy.

They are here because their husbands or their fathers were thought to have been connected with left-wing guerrillas. They are thus targets for revenge killings by the right.

For this reason, most of them are reluctant to talk and none will give their names. Yet short conversations with a few gave some idea of the terrible hopelessness of refugees with nothing to do but wait.

A woman who had been in the camp with her six children since August said she fled from her home 7½ miles east of here because "unknown persons" had threatened her. "There is no work here," she said.

Before she could go on, one of the few men in the camp said she should not talk to me. Instead, I was presented to a comparatively well-dressed man who seemed to be the political spokesman for the refugees. He had been here since the camp was established last March.

"All the people here are fleeing from repression," he said. "They (the Army and rightist groups) organize excursions into our places and kill and harass people who belong to popular organizations and to the Christian community."

He said health conditions were bad. Children often had eye infections and gastroenteritis and 15 had died since the camp opened. There were no doctors on the spot, but the children could go to a neighbouring hospital.

A young boy approached us and showed a purple gash on the side of his head. Soldiers had done it with a machete, he claimed.

I asked the man how long he thought the refugees would have to stay in the field. "Until the triumph of the revolution," he said. "Until the United States stops helping the armed forces to defend the rights of the exploiters."

Even allowing for the political hyperbole, it is going to be a long time before the field can be reclaimed for football.

West Bank settlers get visit from Mr Begin

From Christopher Walker
Nablus, Feb 27

For the first time in nearly four years, Mr Menachem Begin, the Israeli Prime Minister, has visited some of the controversial Jewish settlements which his right-wing Government has encouraged since taking office in 1977.

Today's unexpected tour, in the company of three senior Cabinet Ministers and a score of worried-looking security men, was seen as the unofficial opening of the campaign for the general election in June in which the future of the West Bank is expected to emerge as a central issue.

The Government is anxious to demonstrate the "rapid expansion of Jewish settlement which has taken place under its aegis, and to deflect criticism of its unhappy economic record by depicting the opposition Labour Party as being prepared to hand over parts of the West Bank to the Palestine Liberation Organization.

Throughout the hectic four-hour trip today, the rousing welcome given to Mr Begin by the Jewish settlers, their flag-waving children, and dancing religious students was in sharp contrast with the sullen resentment shown in all the Arab villages passed hastily on the way.

With a number of other reporters, I was permitted to drive with the official procession of cars which hurried through the sealed-off streets of Nablus, the West Bank's biggest and most militantly Palestinian town, at speeds of up to 60 mph. Big traffic jams of Arab drivers built up at the main junctions, closed off as part of the security operation.

The most emotional stopping-



Children welcome Mr Begin to Kadummin settlement during his tour of the West Bank yesterday.

place was Kadummin, an isolated settlement of 600 Jews established illegally by the ultra-nationalist Gush Emunim group in 1975 and finally declared legal by Mr Begin during a personal visit soon after his election triumph in May, 1977.

The Prime Minister, looking tired and strained today, addressed settlers in the new hall at the self-styled "Eretz Israel Academy," established to teach outsiders the value of settlement. He emphasized that his Likud coalition had

kept its election promises and greatly increased the total of Jewish settlements in the area. Mr Begin was accompanied on the tour by Mr Yoram Aridon, the new Minister of Finance, who recently sanctioned more funds for new settlements in his budgetary proposals, Dr Joseph Burg, Minister of the Interior and Mr Ariel Sharon, the former war hero and Minister in charge of the expansionist settlement programme.

Although the reception at the four settlements visited was warm, a number of settlers were critical of Mr Begin's Government, accusing it of not providing sufficient financial backing and of failing to annex the West Bank.

Typical was the reaction of Mr Yitzhak Moses, a young religious student at the two-year-old settlement of Karnei Shomron.

"We are very disappointed that Mr Begin has never made his visit to us before, although he talks so often

about the settlers and the great job we are doing," he said. "But, of course, we will all vote for him rather than the Labour Party—they want to give away our rightful control over Judea and Samaria."

Mr Moses refused to answer a question about what action he and his fellow-settlers would take if a future Government tried to dismantle the settlement, which now stretches over 400 acres. He just fingered his rifle slung over his left shoulder and smiled.

Britons fly out of Iran at third attempt

From Tony Allaway
Tehran, Feb 27

Three British Anglicans managed to leave Iran at the third attempt today, ending a six-month ordeal as suspected spies.

Dr John Coleman, his wife Audrey, and Miss Jean Waddell were in good time to board today's Iran Air flight for Athens, Rome and Madrid. They missed a flight yesterday apparently because they were just too late.

There was still no indication of when the British had prevented their departure on Wednesday, apart from a statement by the official Pars news agency that it involved passport problems. Nor was there any further indication of the fate of a fourth Briton still held in Evin prison, Tehran, on charges of spying and embezzlement. Officials have said, however, that Mr Andrew Pyke, a businessman, will be tried.

With the three on the aircraft was Mr Terry Waite, the special representative of the Archbishop of Canterbury, who has worked for their freedom, and that of four Iranian Anglicans, over the past three weeks.

Before he left Mr Waite gave me some idea of just how difficult those negotiations had been. At one point, he said, there had been a genuine danger of the Anglicans being put on trial, especially Miss Waddell.

It was one of his principal concerns in talking with the Iranians to avoid this, he said. "It was vital to have them out innocent. If they were put in the dock and found guilty imagine what it would have meant for the Iranian Anglican community still here."

Mr Waite described his negotiations as "like walking on eggshells. It was nerve-wracking. It was a very lonely business and I felt the pressure of that."

Without going into details, Mr Waite indicated that one of the problems in freeing the Britons was attempts by "extreme radicals" inside the country to prevent officials from clearing their names. He hinted that an outside country was involved. "There are people who don't want Iran to have a reasonable relationship with the West," he said.

Diplomatic sources who have suggested the same thing believe these attempts included the spreading of disinformation, such as recent false reports that Mr Waite was arranging a swap with two Iranians jailed in Britain after a Dayswater hotel explosion last year.

Mr Waite categorically denied this. "It is a total lie. When I heard it I nearly went through the roof."

Europe reacts cautiously to charge against Cuba

David Spanier
Diplomatic Correspondent

Western European reactions to the American charge of Cuban interference in El Salvador have been cautious but not supportive.

The British Government acted swiftly to condemn "activities which can be regarded only as interference in the internal affairs of El Salvador," though without naming Cuba.

Mr Ivo Alvarez, El Salvador ambassador in Rome, who is a member of the mission ring European capitals, said yesterday that they were looking for a peaceful solution to the conflict.

Mr Alvarez said, "people thought we wanted a literary solution, but the government is calling the whole thing a very difficult to fear the guerrillas, he explained, and even if they did, terrorist phenomenon would remain. Although militarily the

regime was "more secure than ever," he felt that a military victory would risk encouraging a purely military government.

"That is why all of us are totally in favour of a negotiated solution."

Most European Governments seem to accept the American evidence that arms were being smuggled into El Salvador and that this amounted to outside interference.

M Jean Francois-Poncet, the French Foreign Minister, said in Washington this week that neither President Reagan nor Mr Alexander Haig, the Secretary of State, asked for French support in their policies towards El Salvador.

"We are convinced that the situation in Central America requires economic and social reforms," he said. "It is not through military means that these problems are going to be solved."

Invitation declined: West German hopes of arranging talks between the El Salvador Government and opposition leaders appeared doomed today after President Duarte declined an invitation to visit Bonn.

Señor Jose Seguea Sepulveda, El Salvador's chief diplomat in Bonn, told reporters that the President had decided against travelling to Europe next week because of the internal situation in his country.—Reuters.

Diplomatic gaffe by Mr Reagan

Continued from page 1

extricably involved, as in Vietnam.

Responding to several questions about the recent suggestion from President Leonid Brezhnev of the Soviet Union for a summit conference of the superpowers, Mr Reagan said that "dash" into making a reply.

The British leader made it clear that Britain and the rest of the community were determined to press ahead with their separate initiative designed to bring peace to the Middle East.

After her talks with President Reagan at the White House yesterday morning, and round of consultations with Capitol Hill with members of the Senate and the House.

Representatives yesterday afternoon, the social highlight of Mrs Thatcher's first full day in the American capital was last night's official dinner.

Unfortunately, the host of the dinner was responsible for the only apparent, albeit minor,

diplomatic gaffe of the evening. He was asked by reporters whether he would like to go to the wedding in the summer of Prince Charles and Lady Diana Spencer. "I'd love to go very much. It would be lovely," he enthused.

Checking later with the First Lady, he discovered that he had not yet been invited to attend the royal wedding.

Among the 94 American and British guests at the dinner was Mr John Louis, scion of the Johnson's wax fortune, who is strongly tipped to be America's next Ambassador in London.

Also there was Mr Rupert Murdoch, new owner of The Times. He appeared on the guest list as publisher of the New York Post.

After today's speech on the world economy at Georgetown University and a morning spent visiting two high-technology operations near Washington, Mrs Thatcher was tonight to return to the President's hospitality with a state dinner at the British Embassy on Massachusetts Avenue.

Trudeau disdains opposition from provinces

From John Best
Ottawa, Feb 27

Mr Pierre Trudeau determined to press ahead with his plan to bring home Canada's constitution from Britain, even in the face of fierce opposition from the provinces, said last night.

"There is no price you can pay that will satisfy the provinces," he said.

He poured scorn on provincial efforts to find an alternative patriation formula to the one he is proposing, and described such efforts as a "purely dilatory" manoeuvre.

He noted that the six provinces most united against the federal plan had not even been able to agree among themselves on what should be done. They had succeeded only in proving that federal-provincial unanimity was not possible.

Delhi resurrects law to curb lavish banquets

From Trevor Fishlock
Delhi, Feb 27

A faint shadow is being cast across the magnificent feasts of Delhi, those sublime pinakes of Indian cookery and confectionery which make banquets well in the past.

The order was brought in about 25 years ago to control food. There were food shortages at the time and the order was devised to put an end to the spectacles of groaning boards which, it was felt, were offensive to their guests.

The Delhi authorities wanted to make a stand against feasts so grand in scale that even when guests' shirt buttons were bursting there was still much food wasted.

For a while a sort of "feast police" belonging to the city administration "raided" receptions and banquets, but, eventually enforcement of the guest control order stopped.

After all, it takes a considerable manna to be condescending and spoilsport about an event like a wedding feast, bearing in mind that in India a bride's father is expected to provide an impressive banquet and loses face by not doing so.

Nevertheless, the order remains on the books. It applies to feasts attended by 100 guests or more and stipulates that no more than four dishes can be served. Inspectors can order surplus food to be taken away.

The Delhi administration said today that the guest control order had been dusted down. "It is not simply a matter of food scarcity, although there is a slight sugar problem, and the price of cooking oil is increasing," a spokesman said.

The banqueting manager of one of the leading hotels said that his policy was to give customers as many dishes as they required. Receptions and wedding feasts were meant to be happy occasions at which people relaxed and ate their fill.



Mrs Thatcher at Georgetown

US seeking only 'verbal' support against Cuba

From David Cross
Washington, Feb 27

Mr Alexander Haig, the Secretary of State, said today that the United States was not asking Britain and its other European allies at this stage for more than verbal support in its efforts to stop the supply of arms from Cuba to leftist guerrillas in El Salvador.

Nevertheless, he told British reporters after a lengthy session of talks with Lord Carrington, the Foreign Secretary, that what happened in the Americas was of vital interest to the Europeans, too. "This is a global level of unacceptable conduct managed in general by the Soviet Union and applied in specific cases by its (Cuban) proxies," he said.

Asked how far the United States would go to stop the supply of arms, Mr Haig said the new Administration considered "Cuban intervention in this hemisphere on our own doorstep no longer tolerable, no longer acceptable."

There were a whole range of options open to the United States to halt the "wholesale provision of external influence."

Earlier, he had told a group of American reporters that the Administration had evidence that Nicaragua was assisting the rebels in El Salvador and that the United States might

retaliate by cutting off all aid to the Government in Managua. But he assured his listeners that the new Administration was not considering sending any combat advisers to El Salvador.

Rather, he was considering the possibility of sending personnel to help with technical training for the maintenance of helicopters or other similar equipment.

Mr Haig said Washington had been very pleased with the full measure of support which the European allies had displayed in accepting what he called the irrefutable evidence which the Administration had provided of Cuban involvement in El Salvador.

Close consultations between Washington and European capitals would continue as the Administration developed its policy towards the embattled American republic, he promised.

In response to another question about whether President Reagan would accept the recent invitation from President Brezhnev for a summit meeting, Mr Haig said that a decision would be "materially influenced by our assessment of corresponding global Soviet activity."

He said that the assessment of Soviet behaviour in such places as Afghanistan, Kampuchea and El Salvador among others must clearly precede any decision on American attendance at a summit.

SUNDAY TIMES

weekly review

The election of the American president is the most important event in the world since the end of the Second World War. It is a contest that will have a profound effect on the world and on the lives of millions of people. What does the future hold for the world? What does the future hold for the United States? What does the future hold for the world?

OVERSEAS

Officer gets 15 years for killing black boy

From Ray Kennedy
Johannesburg, Feb. 27

A national service subaltern in the South African Army was sentenced to 15 years in jail today for the cold-blooded killing of a nine-year-old African boy. He shot the boy dead at the roadside as he headed home on a weekend pass.

Second Lieutenant Jacobus Botha, aged 19, would have been sentenced to death automatically if a judge and two assessors had not found an extenuating circumstance.

Mr Justice van Reenen said in the Klerksdorp circuit court, 100 miles south-west of Johannesburg, that Lieutenant Botha, by being commissioned, was given responsibility at a young age which proved a burden he could not cope with.

It is predictable that the verdict will be criticised outside South Africa on the grounds that a white boy killed in a similar attack by a black, the killer would have been sentenced to hang. Lieutenant Botha will be eligible for parole and remission of his jail sentence.

On November 6 last year, Lieutenant Botha and five other national servicemen—all rifle-ment—began a 300-mile journey in two cars from their barracks in Kimberley to Johannesburg for weekend passes.

They loaded up with six packs of beer and Lieutenant Botha also brought his loaded R1 rifle, the South African version of the standard NATO FN, loaded with a full magazine of 20 rounds of ammunition.

The court was told that the lieutenant fired indiscriminately at roadside targets during the journey. Near Bloemhof, halfway between Kimberley and Johannesburg, a group of African children was walking home along the roadside when school and Lieutenant Botha stopped the cars.

He got out, levelled the rifle, and shot Petrus Makwaba dead. A young girl, Grijan Thabe, aged 13, was also wounded.

Lieutenant Botha pleaded that he was drunk after having four bottles of beer.

The crime was shocking, the judge said, before sentencing Lieutenant Botha to 15 years' jail for the murder of the boy, eight years for the attempted murder of the girl and one year for malicious damage to property, to run concurrently.

Lieutenant Botha pleaded not guilty to the charges. Four other national servicemen pleaded not guilty to charges of attempted murder and being accessories to attempted murder. Rifleman Jan Hattingh was acquitted, and Rifleman Christo Gouw, Marius De Beer and Hendrik Knoke were sentenced to five years' imprisonment, suspended for five years.

\$587,000 award against Beatle

New York, Feb. 27.—George Harrison, the former Beatle, was ruled liable for \$587,000 (\$267,000) in damages when a court found that the melody for his 1971 hit "My Sweet Lord" had been "subconsciously plagiarized" from a 1963 song "Go Now" by the American band The Move.

The award went to ABKCO, a company owned by Mr Alan Klein, former business manager of Mr Harrison, which paid that sum to Bright Tunes Music Corporation in 1978 for the plagiarized tune.—Reuters.

Mrs Bhutto is freed but banned from Punjab

Islamabad, Feb. 27.—Begum Nusrat Bhutto, widow of Mr Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, Pakistan's executed Prime Minister, returned home to Karachi today after being detained for several hours in Lahore and banned from the politically sensitive Punjab province.

To evade police restrictions on her movements she had disguised herself in an ankle-length sari and taken a small child with her when she travelled on an overnight train to Lahore to attend a clandestine meeting of opposition leaders yesterday.

The ranks of their parties have been thinned by widespread arrests in the past few days as the military government of President Zia ul-Haq clamps down on political unrest.

Mrs Bhutto led a group of eight other political leaders in Lahore in planning a campaign to end martial law and force General Zia out of power. The politicians from the newly formed Movement for the Restoration of Democracy agreed that from Monday they would organize a day of national protest every week until their demands for parliamentary elections had been met.

Further South African cross-border foray feared before election

From Our Own Correspondent
Johannesburg, Feb. 27

Western diplomats are concerned that South Africa may be contemplating another cross-border raid before the general election at the end of April, similar to the attack on African National Congress houses near Maputo, Mozambique, last month.

Mr Pieter Botha, the Prime Minister, has made the "total onslaught" against South Africa his theme for the election campaign. Almost every important speech by ministers contains an appeal for South Africans to unite in the face of the "Marxist threat" building up around the country's borders.

In a toughly-worded statement earlier this week, the Prime Minister, clearly trying to show white right-wingers that he can be as *verkrampte* (conservative) as the best of them, said the South Africa would carry out more raids, if they were in the country's interests.

Nor would South Africa be deterred from taking such action by an increase in Soviet military support for Mozambique, he said. He was referring to a statement made at the weekend by Mr Valentin Vodovod, the Russian ambassador in Maputo, that the Soviet

Union would be sending more ships to Mozambique, soon to join the cruiser Aleksandr Suvorov, which is there on what is described as a "working visit".

"Threats by the Soviet Union will not stop South Africa from attacking African National Congress bases in Mozambique", he said.

Western diplomats fear that any further raids into Mozambique would push President Samora Machel's Government closer to the Soviet Union. Although the Russians are Mozambique's largest arms supplier and the two countries enjoy a treaty of friendship, there are no Soviet bases in Mozambique and President Machel has been careful to restrict the Soviet presence in his country.

Similarly, it is feared that further raids into southern Angola, ostensibly in pursuit of the insurgents who belong to the South-West Africa People's Organization, would undermine Angola's present discreet overtures to the West.

The Angolan authorities have made it clear that they wish to reduce their military dependence on Russia, Cuba and East Germany, but feel unable to do so as long as South African forces continue to carry out raids from northern Namibia.

Boers celebrate famous victory over British

From Nicholas Ashford
Johannesburg, Feb. 27

When it comes to celebrating anniversaries of military events, the South Africans have shown themselves every bit as enthusiastic as the British. The trouble (from the point of view of an Englishman living in South Africa) is that the British lost so many of the battles.

Two years ago it was the centenary of Ixandlwana when the Zulus decimated a British force led by Lord Chelmsford. But at least honour on that occasion was subsequently restored at Rorke's Drift and the Anglo-Zulu war at Ulundi.

Today marked the centenary of the Battle of Majuba, when a small army of Boers roundly defeated a British force led by Major-General Sir George Colley, thereby bringing the first Anglo-Boer war to a swift end (for the British) ignominious end.

Of the 375 British troops who scaled the heights of Majuba, on the Transvaal-Natal border, 285 were killed, wounded or captured, including General Colley.

Majuba is the sort of event which teachers of history in British schools used to gloss over when dealing with the achievements of the Victorian era. The vision of redcoated British soldiers cutting away Boer marksmen was not an edifying one for those of us brought up on Henry and Haggard.

But to South Africans, and particularly the Afrikaners, the Boer victory was a source of pride and a victory as Waterloo. For the outcome of the battle proved that the Boers were able successfully to resist the might of the British Empire in Southern Africa.

The centenary of the battle is being commemorated by a

series of events spread over the three days. Mr Marais Viljoen, the State President, is to give a speech at Majuba Hill which will be preceded by prayers and the signing of patriotic songs by five choirs. For the past week torches have been carried from the four corners of the country to light a commemorative flame at the Majuba amphitheatre.

A commemorative set of stamps has been issued portraying scenes from the battle. The five-cent stamp, which is used for the postage of letters, shows the victorious Boers.

Last night the South African Military History Society organized a "march" up Majuba Hill, following the route taken by General Colley and his men on the evening of Feb. 26, 1881.

It was, by all accounts, a gruelling experience, although one of the "marchers" complained that after scrambling through the bush for over three hours they suddenly came across a road near the top of the hill which certainly was not there 100 years ago.

The only sour note in the celebrations was struck a few days ago when it suddenly transpired that a series of statuettes commemorating the battle were made in, of all places, England. The statuettes, costing about £500 each and designed by Mr Michael Sutt, who is considered the finest sculptor of military figures in the world.

But some Afrikaners have complained that it was an insult that such sacred mementoes should have been made in the land of the former foe.

It will be another 19 years before the English can have their revenge by commemorating the British victory at Paardeberg in the second Anglo-Boer war.

John Crossland, page 14

Children dying daily in Ogaden camp

From Our Correspondent
Geneva, Feb. 27

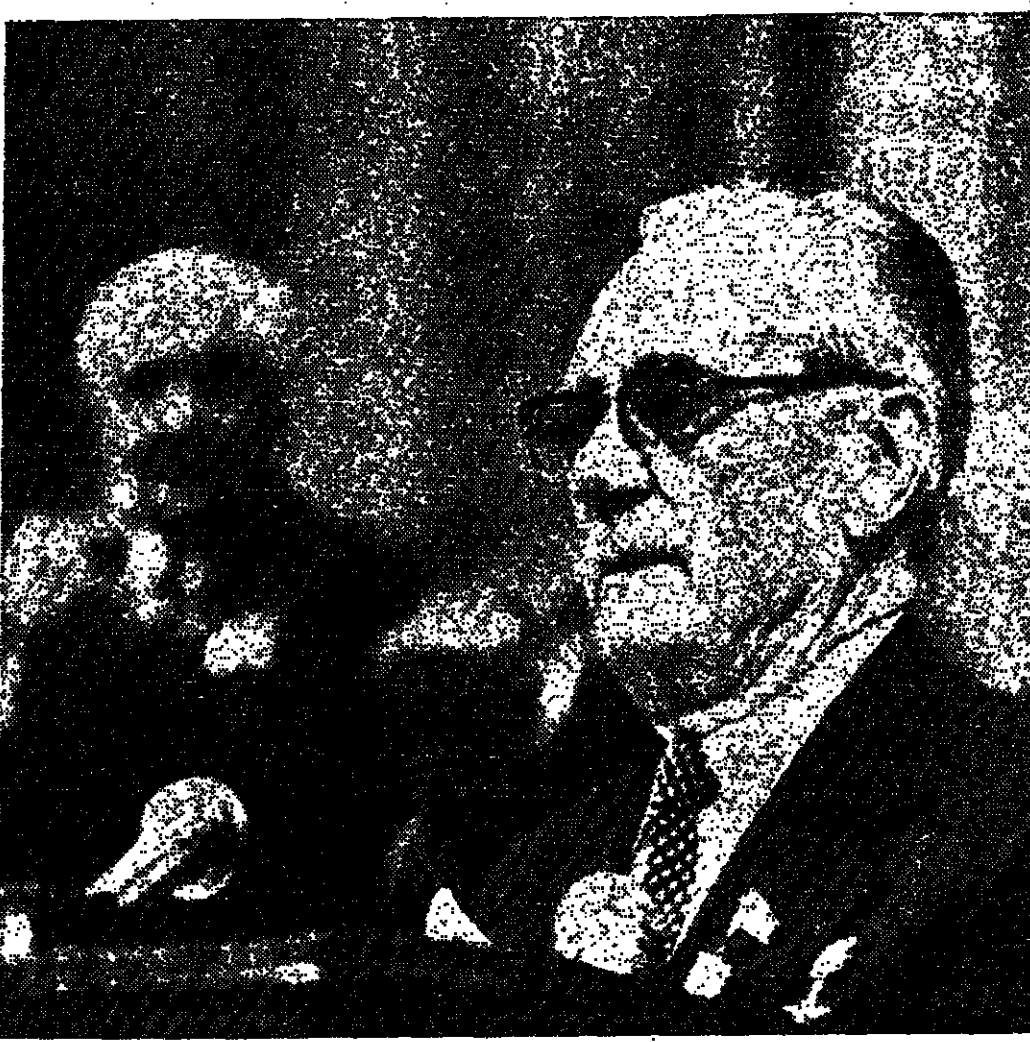
Twelve to 15 children are dying each day at an isolated camp in the Ogaden desert of Ethiopia, an official of the United Nations High Commission for Refugees said today. He described it as "probably the worst camp in the world".

The desert camp is cut off because of fighting in the area and supplies have to be flown in from the town of Dire Dawa, an hour away by air.

The official, just back from touring the area, said circumstances in Somalia refugee camps "threaten to become catastrophic". The region was experiencing the most severe drought for 30 years.

Executions soon for Liberian murderers

Monrovia, Feb. 27.—Master Sergeant Samuel Doe, the Liberian Head of State, has announced that all convicted murderers will soon be executed, the Liberian news agency Lina reported. "Those to be found guilty of murder" would also be killed. Four convicted murderers are said to be held at Monrovia's central prison and seven others in Zwedru, 300 miles to the northeast.



Mr Tikhonov giving his report on the Soviet economy to the party congress.

Soviet-American trade stagnating

From Michael Binyon
Moscow, Feb. 27

The Soviet Union was ready to develop economic relations with the United States on the basis of equality and mutual benefit, Mr Nikolai Tikhonov, the Prime Minister, declared today. But he said trade between the two countries was now stagnating or declining.

This was not the fault of the Russians, but the result of American policy which used trade for "unseemly political ends foreign to the interests of equitable international co-operation".

"This was a clear reference to the grain embargo and ban on high technology sales imposed by President Carter after the Soviet intervention in Afghanistan."

Delivering a detailed report to the party congress on the development of the Soviet economy over the next five years, the Soviet Prime Minister said his country was in favour of "stable, mutually beneficial" ties with capitalist countries, and appreciated those businessmen who showed a "constructive approach" to questions of international economic cooperation.

He said the Russians also hoped to intensify their co-operation with fellow-members of Comecon, the Soviet trading bloc, especially in such fields as nuclear energy, fuel supplies, heavy engineering, agricultural machinery and mining.

Soviet planners had been told to press for more foreign economic ties in order to "economize on labour and material resources, speed up technical progress and get a gain in time".

The Leit-motiv of Mr Tikhonov's report was that the Soviet economy had to develop more intensively over the next five years. There had to be a significant cutback in waste and the squandering of raw materials. Greater returns on fixed assets, a more responsible and efficient use of machinery and better planning and management. His report amplified the slogan in President Brezhnev's lengthy speech on Monday: "The economy has to be economical".

The Prime Minister, who is 75 and formally took over from Mr Alexei Kosygin last autumn, shortly before Mr Kosygin's death, denied that the Soviet economy was in a crisis, but admitted that its productivity had to be urgently improved.

He did not give many statistics in his report, but did give some strikingly ambitious figures for improvements in the supply of food, especially meat, and consumer goods, which are now to be the country's main priority.

In the next five years, he said, the output of meat should go up by 40 per cent, butter by 25 per cent, vegetable oil by more than 50 per cent, fabrics by 22 per cent, knitted goods by about 30 per cent, leather footwear by 11 per cent and household goods by at least 40 per cent.

He called for better standards in all consumer goods, and said it should be a matter of pride for those producing them to make good and attractive products "which bring pleasure to people's homes and raise their spirits".

He had harsh words for the present level of Soviet management, and said there had to be a thorough change, including "the remoulding of the very psychology of managerial staff".

His report, which calls for vast improvements in almost every sector of the economy, echoes persistent calls recently for greater efficiency, responsibility and initiative. It suggests the good life might be round the corner for the Soviet consumer, but only on condition that he works considerably harder and more productively than he has done so far.

The Bill did not apply to the Tote which made a contribution to racing, but the racing man which had increased from about £400,000 in 1976-77 to more than £1.5m in the past financial year.

Under the Bill, it would fall to the Home Secretary, as it had in the past, to determine a levy scheme when this was not agreed. That had been understood for some time and not at all since he became Home Secretary.

It would still be for the levy board to decide the details between them how best to collect the levy.

A levy scheme involving advance payment of the levy had been agreed, but it was not yet in operation, voluntarily for two years.

The scheme, however, had only worked because a relatively small number of bookmakers had agreed to make advance payments. In 1979-80, 30,000 bets had been placed on the levy, but the number of bookmakers willing to make advance payments of the levy had been very small.

There have been a number of cases where the levy board has had to sue bookmakers for the levy. The levy board has been successful in some cases, but it has been a costly and time-consuming process.

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PARLIAMENT, Feb 27, 1981

Better arrangements for collecting levy on horserace betting

House of Commons
The maintenance of the levy was essential to the future of horse racing in this country, Mr Charles Morrison (Devizes, C) said when he successfully moved the second reading of the Horserace Betting Levy Bill. The Bill is designed to enable better arrangements to be made for the collection of the levy.

He said the Horserace Betting Levy Board was charged with assessing the levy to be paid by bookmakers on betting on horses.

Each levy scheme related to a particular year and liability to pay levy arose from the assessment of bookmakers and there was no annual turnover could not be assessed until the end of a year's trading.

To eliminate an abuse, it was agreed in 1976 that bookmakers' liability should be assessed in relation to turnover in the current levy year. This change took effect in April 1979. About one third of all bookmakers had agreed to contribute in advance of assessment.

This voluntary system of advance payments had major shortcomings. Under it, the levy board could never be certain it would receive advance payments. This made it difficult for the board to budget properly and there was the constant worry it would have to undertake expensive commercial borrowing to maintain its cash.

The Bill would enable provision to be made for a scheme for payments on account of the levy to be made during the levy year.

He understood the bookmakers were in general agreement with the levy board, but he was aware that some bookmakers contributed, during the course of the year instead of making advance payments.

Mr Charles Morrison (Devizes, C) said the Bill would be a step towards a more equitable system. It would be appropriate to see if the bookmakers' representation on the levy board was sufficient. Mr Morrison said the levy board was a body of men and women, many of whom were racing enthusiasts. The levy board was a body of men and women, many of whom were racing enthusiasts.

The aim of the Bill was to ensure that the levy board was able to rely on income from the betting levy and that the machinery for collecting the levy was as efficient as possible. It employed nearly 100,000 people.

The Bill did not apply to the Tote which made a contribution to racing, but the racing man which had increased from about £400,000 in 1976-77 to more than £1.5m in the past financial year.

Under the Bill, it would fall to the Home Secretary, as it had in the past, to determine a levy scheme when this was not agreed. That had been understood for some time and not at all since he became Home Secretary.

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If racing was to flourish and continue to provide jobs, generate exports, and provide the Government with large revenues, prize money must move with the pace of inflation. It needed to be greatly increased. Dr Shirley Summerskill, an Opposition spokesman on horse affairs (Hemel Hempstead, Lab) said they supported the Bill.

She trusted that money would be spent as much on facilities for average racers as had been spent on new grandstands for wealthier spectators. There was some concern that too much levy money was put into prizes for top class races at the expense of horses and trainers. Only 3 per cent of the money went to veterinary science.

The Home Secretary would use his influence to encourage the Jockey Club to develop a membership of representatives of a wider cross-section of people.

The bookmakers' committee wanted four safeguards written into the Bill and the Opposition would put them down as amendments to the Bill.

The first was that the scheme should not require any payment on account to be made before completion of the relevant levy period. The second was that the levy board should be able to appeal against the provisions of a notice of determination throughout the year.

The third amendment would ensure that the three Government-appointed members would have to consult with the bookmakers' committee when an individual's determination was estimated by the levy board before the start of the levy year.

Fourth, a provision would enable the levy board to amend notices of determination once stated in the light of changing circumstances.

Mr Bruce George (Walsall, South, Lab) said he wished that some of the levy board's enthusiasm for horse racing might be transferred to greyhound racing for a similar scheme.

Sir Timothy Kitson (Richmond, Yorks, C) said that it was surely better to have money go to those courses with large attendances.

Burden should be shared

Mr William Whitelaw, Home Secretary (Pembroke, C) said that it was a valuable Bill. He had no doubt that the Government could have found time to introduce the Bill or to include its provisions in a comprehensive gambling bill, but he thought it was better to have it as a separate Bill.

He strongly supported the racing industry (the Bill) and its part in our national life. The Bill should enjoy the support of all who love racing and wish to see a more equitable system in the economic and social life of the country.

The aim of the Bill was to ensure that the levy board was able to rely on income from the betting levy and that the machinery for collecting the levy was as efficient as possible. It employed nearly 100,000 people.

The Bill did not apply to the Tote which made a contribution to racing, but the racing man which had increased from about £400,000 in 1976-77 to more than £1.5m in the past financial year.

Under the Bill, it would fall to the Home Secretary, as it had in the past, to determine a levy scheme when this was not agreed. That had been understood for some time and not at all since he became Home Secretary.

It would still be for the levy board to decide the details between them how best to collect the levy.

A levy scheme involving advance payment of the levy had been agreed, but it was not yet in operation, voluntarily for two years.

The scheme, however, had only worked because a relatively small number of bookmakers had agreed to make advance payments. In 1979-80, 30,000 bets had been placed on the levy, but the number of bookmakers willing to make advance payments of the levy had been very small.

There have been a number of cases where the levy board has had to sue bookmakers for the levy. The levy board has been successful in some cases, but it has been a costly and time-consuming process.

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den which should have been shared by all.

Under the Bill, all bookmakers would have to share their share of advance payments because, under the Bill, such a scheme would be a condition of the levy board's licence to operate. It would provide the levy board with a secure basis on which it could plan its expenditure throughout the year.

The bookmakers had expressed the fear that by extending the framework within which the levy scheme could be agreed, the Bill would require them to pay the whole of a year's advance payment in one lump sum at the beginning of the year. They would like the Bill to prohibit him doing this.

He did not think this difficulty could easily be resolved in principle by putting it in the Bill. The chairman of the levy board had written to him, on behalf of the full board, giving a firm undertaking that the board would not seek to incorporate two levy schemes any provision which would require bookmakers to make a payment in advance of the business year to which that payment related.

He welcomed the undertaking which he was sure would remove any fears which bookmakers might have that the levy board would be tempted to seek to use the increased flexibility provided by the Bill to demand payments in advance of business done.

He understood bookmakers had asked that the Bill should make provision for a notice of determination to be varied in the course of the year to reflect a significant change in a bookmaker's circumstances.

This was something it would be appropriate for the Bill to permit. He understood that Mr Morrison, the sponsor, had it in mind to introduce an amendment waiving the committee stage. The Government would support such a position.

By strengthening and extending arrangements by which British racing financed itself, the Bill would ensure the continued prosperity of an industry which played an important role in the national way of life and gave great pleasure to many people.

The Bill was read a second time.

Scotland's image abroad

There was no substitute for a properly organized national promotion of the Scottish scene abroad, Mr Gordon Wilson (Dundee, East, Scot, Nat) said when he moved the second reading of the Development of Tourism (Scotland) Bill.

He said that at present responsibility for the promotion of Scotland for the purpose of attracting tourists was vested in the Scottish Tourist Board.

The Scottish Tourist Board was only enabled to project Scotland within the United Kingdom. It had been a failure for a number of years the right to project Scotland abroad and to have more influence in the way in which Scotland was portrayed. The object of the Bill was to give the board such powers.

Mr Ian Sproat (Aberdeen, South,

Records of the month

An exuberant and volatile old soak

Verdi: Falstaff. Taddel/Panzeri / Kabaivanska / Vienna Philharmonic / Karajan. Philips 6769 (50) (3 discs). Cobby/Panzeri / Schwarzkopf / Philharmonia / Karajan. HMV SLS 5311 (2 discs). RSL 6311 Rossini: L'italiana in Algeri. Horne / Battaglia/Palacio/Ramey/Solisti Veneti/Scimone. Erato STU 71394 (3 discs).

Lortzing: Der Wälschert. Rotenberger / Wunderlich / Prey/Bavarian State Opera Orchestra/Heger. EMI C 149-23 5346 (3 discs).

Freni and Scotto in Duet. Decca SXL 6970. KSXL 6970

Forget about singing Falstaff until you are fifty, an international baritone said to me a few weeks ago; by that time the Verdi bel canto roles will be moving out of your reach and you have the perfect part for the last stage of the career. Giuseppe Taddel, who takes the title role in the Philips recording of Falstaff issued this month, is 64. He has been appearing in Verdi's opera for a good number of years now and there is no sign of him hanging up his pewter pot and retiring from the Garter. Indeed Karajan's confidence in Taddel's staying power is such that he has cast him for the new summer's Salzburg Festival.

The Philips issue is an almost total reflection of that promised production, which Karajan himself will direct as well as conduct, and the singers are identical. And therein lies both the strength and weakness of the set. The music cast assembled is wholly admirable: Heinz Zednik and Piero de Palma create immediate and sharply edged characters as Bardolito and Calves; Francesco Araiza's very tenor makes him the most winning of Fentons; and there is Rolando Panzeri, who has been singing Ford for a quarter of a century now, sounding as indestructible as Taddel himself.

Taddel's Falstaff is exuberant and volatile, overjoyed at the faintest prospect of success and dispirited in defeat, until he has a glass of sack to bring him round. He is at his finest in the closing pages of the scene which he sings almost conditionally forgives his tormentors. The serenity of Taddel's singing here is in every way worthy of Verdi's own farewell to opera. Earlier, aided and encouraged by Karajan, he

uses quite a number of vocal tricks, including excessive falsetto, to get the music under his belt. Reaction to the Taddel Falstaff must depend very much on what the individual listener demands from the part: rich characterization or a forceful baritone.

The female cast by the side of the male line-up is dismal and some of the casting distinctly bizarre. The only possible conclusion is that Karajan has his eye on a future film of the Salzburg production. Christa Ludwig sounds sadly out of voice as Mistress Quickly; Janet Perry can hardly be counted among the best Netties available at the moment; Trudese Schmidt makes no impression as Meg; and Kabaivanska, by far the best of the comers, lacks humour as Alice.

There remains Karajan's own contribution, which has extraordinary dramatic movement. Everything is taken to extremes: never has the search in the Ford household been so helter-skelter, never has the moonlight in Windsor Forest shone more exquisitely, never has Falstaff been tortured with such relish. Yet despite these excesses, marvelously realized in Philips's digital recording, there comes through a compelling enthusiasm for the work.

The approach, then, is geared for the expanses of the large Festspielhaus in Salzburg, whereas Karajan's earlier Falstaff recording was a much more intimate affair. EMI, never averse to setting a booby trap in the path of their competitors, have just reissued it on two records. In comparison with Philips's opulent presentation it looks like an economy package, but the rewards are considerable. Gobb's Falstaff is much more of a piece than that of Taddel as well as being considerably stronger vocally. Panzeri is again the Ford and Alva the immaculate Fenton. But where the EMI set mainly serves as a guide to the music, the Philips set is a piece of art in itself, a vivid and energetic bunch whose intrigues turn the males into a bundle of dull-witted blunderers. They are led by Schwarzkopf's Alice, not very Verdian but infinitely intelligent, and Anna Moffo's Bianca, who is probably her best performance on disc.

Two imported sets this month from Conifer could well help fill gaps on the record shelves. The issue of L'italiana in Algeri coincides precisely



The archetypal Falstaff, from L'illustrazione italiana, 1993

with the revival of Rossini's opera at the Met in New York, with the same two highly accomplished ladies leading the cast: Marilyn Horne as the Italian girl in question, who is more than a match for any Algerian, and Kathleen Battle as Elvira. And a very lively couple they are. Samuel Ramey is a fine, sonorous Mustafà, but the Lindoro is weakly cast: the Met's new discovery, Rockwell Blake, would have been a much better choice. Claudio Scimone is the dapper conductor of what sounds to be a small band of players; the additional arias which Rossini wrote for Isabella and Lindoro are included on the final side of the set.

An engaging issue, then, even if it does not efface the Giulini recording of many years ago with Simionato. Lortzing's Der Wälschert was recorded back in 1964, although the sound quality is scarcely inferior to L'italiana. No one much cares to champion Lortzing in this country, apart from the John Lewis Partnership from time to time. Perhaps the performance of the late Fritz Wunderlich here, with his regular partner of the time, Hermann Prey, will encourage a change of heart. The songs may be simple and the sentiments simpler still,

but the whole score goes with great brio under Robert Heger, who was approaching veteran status when he made the record.

Minella Freni and Renata Scotto are not an obvious singing combination, but they work together remarkably well on a Decca recital disc whose main item is "Mira, O Norma", with Freni as the Adalgisa. Just to make sure that honours are even, Scotto sings the Countess in the "Sull'aria" duet from Figaro. The orchestral accompaniment is rapid.

John Higgins

Mozartian joy unconfined

Mozart: La finta giardiniera. Sukis / Conwell / Fassbaender / Ithoff / T. Moser / Cesare / McDaniel / Salzburg Mozarteum / Hager. DG 2740 234 (4 discs).

Mozart: Idomeneo. Yakar / Palmer / Schmidt / Hollweg / Zurich Opera / Harnoncourt. Telefunken 6.35547 (4 discs).

Wagner: Parsifal. Vejsovic / Hofmann / Van Dam / Moll / Berlin PO / Karajan. DG 2741 002 (5 discs).

The great comic operas of Mozart, from Die Entführung aus dem Serail onwards, did not emerge prodigiously. Like Athenae, adult and fully armed from the head of Zeus. There had been practice efforts and one of them, La finta giardiniera (written for Munich when he was 16), already finds him experimenting in the mixture of comic and serious situations and music such as we acclaim in the mature masterpieces. He composed it as a *dramma giocoso* in Italian, with sung recitatives, but the manuscript of the first act disappeared soon after, and posterity was left only with a German adaptation and spoken dialogue. Those of us who sensed that it could only be appreciated properly if it were performed as the Italian musician would attempt to supply the missing recitatives, using the extant original text, as set by Giuseppe Anfossi.

Now a copy of the whole Mozart score in Italian, with the missing recitatives, has turned up in a Moravian library, and been published as part of the New Mozart Edition. Leopold Hager, of the Salzburg Mozarteum, was the first to take advantage of the new discovery: he conducted a concert performance of the work which Deutsche Grammophon at once recorded, and the records, issued this month, have captivated me completely. It is almost as if a diver had raised the Colossus of Rhodes from the bottom of the sea. The music that we knew in German sounds infinitely more stylish in Italian, if only because the connecting recitatives are now there, and excellent Mozart they are, including those formerly lost for the first act—Serpetta's annoyed intrusions on her employer's flirtation with Sandrina, for example, even more so the latter's faltering on learning that her old lover, Belfiore, has arrived, a recitative with orchestral accompaniment and striking harmony. The Salzburg performance is decently cast, performed with lively spirit. Some grammatical

graces may be missed, but the performance avoids the heaviness which marries Hager's earlier readings of Mozart's early heroic operas, and the Italian pronunciation shows a marked improvement—is it because Ezio, di Cesare, sings the part of the elderly comic suitor and governor of the district? He understands the role to a nicety, and is strongly supported by Lilian Sukis as the haughty serious lover, and Thomas Moser in the curiously univalent part of Count Belfiore, now a hero, now a clown, excellent in the aria where he boasts of his glorious ancestry, likewise Brigitte Fassbaender in the castrato role of Ramiro, and Jutta-Renate Ithoff as a proto-Despina. Barry McDaniel is inclined to exaggerate the clowning of the jolly manservant, and Julia Conwell makes a shrill, gassy Desdemona, though through such shortcomings as are nothing compared with the joy of encountering another major Mozart comic opera. I cannot wait to experience it in the theatre, preferably at Glyndebourne, though Julia Davis and Charles Mackerras will be pining to bring it on stage—to say nothing of Sir Peter Hall.

The New Mozart Edition supplies the text for a new recording of Idomeneo, which Nicholas Harnoncourt is in charge, and opts for the text of the Munich premiere, rejecting some of the most famous music (Electra's "D'Oreste, d'Aiace", and the King's "Torna la pace", for instance), but making a consistent approach, and characteristically attempting a stylish sound for the orchestral music (but strings and muted such as Mozart mentions in his letters), with special care for recitatives and a recitation. The results are strikingly fresh, pungent, bright and silvery, by comparison with other sets which sound more mellow and romantic, though Harnoncourt takes a warm and dramatic view of the work, especially thrilling in the temple scene of the third act.

We do have a soprano Idamante, Trudese Schmidt, whose only failing is that her expressive voice sounds too like that of the Ilia, Rachel Yakar, outstanding herself in all of her three arias. Arabes is given both his arias, for the first time on record in recent years; Kurt Sanderling, though predictably, though his voice is too unsteady to do justice to the florid divisions. Felicity Palmer is the Electra, ready for the serenity of her second act music as well as the temerarious elsewhere, though her *gruppetti* are

vague. In the title role Werner Hollweg's strong, heroic tenor rises up to the demands of "Fuor del mar" (the first more taxing version which, surely, was not sung in the premiere because the elderly singer could not manage it), and rises to the crisis of the temple scene, but lacks character elsewhere, compared with, say, George Shirley in the Philips set. Harnoncourt surprisingly allows too many cadences with blunt endings, though the edition carefully suggests how appoggiaturas may be taken; only Robert Tear as the High Priest, shows concern for them. The baller music at the end is included, but not the missing material which Harnoncourt, in his preface, promises for an extra disc. I still prefer the Philips/Davis set as an interpretation of the opera, but this new one has unique virtues, including clean, percussive digitally-recorded sound.

When Herbert von Karajan directed his own production of Wagner's Parsifal at last year's Salzburg Easter Festival, it seemed some sort of ultimate consummation of the event which he founded 15 years ago. In the theatre it was less than content with it all, but by then he had committed his interpretation to disc, though it only now reaches the record shops. All agreed that the cast was splendid, especially Kurt Moll, endearing, noble, Gutsmuths, an object lesson in Wagnerian *bel canto*, and José van Dam's secure, sturdy Amfortas (here interpreted in German towards the end). His Yugoslav Kundry (and Bayreuth's) turns squally above the stage, but woe the ear as she descends the scale; hers is a thrilling interpretation throughout.

When he went to Peter Hofman, ideal on the stage but unhappily served by the microphone, as other records of his have suggested: the bloom is removed from the warm heroic tenor voice. It is a shame that Karajan should insist upon the great Parsifal of our day, his memorable Tristan of a few years back, Jon Vickers, who has not recorded the part. The new DG set, recorded digitally with many-channelled Karajan, so that Karajan could supervise the final balance himself, has the most consistently beautiful sound of all, and a reading of outstanding lyrical eloquence. In dramatic potency, sometimes even serene vitality, the new DG set is a masterpiece. Karajan, in his Berlin church, has the preferable acoustic.

William Mann

Liszt sensitively characterized

Liszt: Songs. Baker/Parsons. EMI ASD 3906; TC-ASD 3906.

Joseph Hislop: Italian arias, Scottish and English songs. Rubini RS 308 (2 discs).

Janáček: Quartets Nos 1 and 2. Medici String Quartet. EMI 1195 1433.

Janáček: String Quartets. Smetana Quartet. Supraphon 4 11 1995.

Janáček: Piano and Chamber Works. Crossley/London Sinfonietta/Gabrieli String Quartet. Decca D 2233 (5 discs).

So subdued, so hushed for the most part is Janet Baker in 12 of Liszt's more sombre songs that she seems at times almost in awe of this comparatively little-performed and little-recorded music. Sometimes it goes too far: "Die drei Zigeuner" is a little pale in its characterization; the voice is consistently and disappointingly raw in the higher register; and Geoffrey Parsons's at times understated accompaniments are given a dryish recording. But for me all this is recompensed by the sheer beauty and sensitivity of interpretation: the breadth of characterization in voice and accompaniment of "Die Lorelei"; the glowing mezzo voice vowels, matched exquisitely by the piano's luminous tone in "Du bist wie eine Blume"; the even, moving simplicity of "Freudvoll und leidvoll".

He was admired by Puccini, and in *Bohème* responded to Medba, coached by Josef Björling and was the bridge between Birgit Nilsson and Kirsten Flagstad, passing on to Nilsson what he had learnt from Puccini's teacher, Joseph Hislop, and the Scottish tenor who was still teaching until a year before his death in 1977 at the age of 93, is commemorated in a two-disc Rubini set which fills the gap left by the deletion of their

earlier Hislop recording.

The unusually consistent balance of strength and tone throughout his entire range, the vast distance stretching like silk elastic between fortissimo and the quietest *mezzo voce*, his seemingly spontaneous musical and verbal intelligence, sharpened by a highly individual and immediate expressive sensibility, are revealed in arias by Massenet, Verdi and Puccini (including *Manon Lescaut* in Swedish). But perhaps most effective is the seriousness of musical and expressive purpose he brings to the Scottish songs, wrapped here, *alas*, in the whisky-soaked taint of the orchestral accompaniment from the film *The Lower of Robert Burns*. It is a pity that Rubini did not use the alternative and, I think, finer versions of, for instance, "Flow gently, sweet Afton" and the *Edinburg Love Lull* that I still possess on old 78s; but they must be congratulated on making available, on comparatively quiet transfers, so much of so rare a voice.

Although more and more of it is being played, there are still comparatively few recordings of Janáček's chamber music. Two new recordings of the quartets, and one from 1978 in a new and timely boxed set of piano and chamber music, redress the balance more than adequately. Each one is in its own way a fine performance, and here any evaluative criticism can come only from a purely personal response.

In the first quartet "The Krumpholtz Sonata" the Smetana Quartet's playing has a bright, lyrical beauty of tone, the dynamic ebb and flow not so precisely detailed and controlled as by the Smetana Quartet, their second movement

lighter, their third warmer but less urgent. The Smetana Quartet wear their hearts less visibly on their sleeves, but they beat no less strongly for the music. Highly sensitive, the emotion rarely contained and intensely accumulated, for me they re-create more movingly Janáček's combination of intimacy and self-dramatization. "Intimate Letters", the second quartet, was one of the first works the Medici played together as students: they make Janáček's emotional confession in the last year of his life more virile, spontaneous and strongly projected, whereas the Smetana's performance gains in some rare and beautiful timbres, a sense of awe as well as gaiety, of true horror as well as joy in the third movement.

The Gabrieli Quartet, in the Decca box, are comparatively more reflective, more relaxed, creating much sheer beauty of sound in readings which for me seem nevertheless not quite so deeply perused and therefore not so deeply moving. Everything else in the box is very recorded to a very high standard: there are fresh, colourful performances of two works from Janáček's final period, the *Concerto and Capriccio*, an exploratory reading of *A Tale for cello and piano*, a valuable if not perfect performance of the generally unavailable and delightfully whimsical nonsense rhymes, *Aklada* (with some of the original drawings which accompanied the book).

In many ways most rewarding of all there is the piano music: "On an overgrown path", Theme and Variations, the Sonata "In the mist" and the tiny exquisite "Recollection", all played by Paul Crossley with intelligence, sensitivity and mature insight.

Hilary Finch

The mysterious mirror proffered by Maeterlinck

Fauré, Sibelius, Schoenberg: Pelléas et Mélisande. Rotterdam PO/Zinnman. Philips 6769 045 (2 discs).

Strauss: Don Juan. Till Eulenspiegel, Tod und Verklärung. Vienna PO/Previn. HMV ASD 3913; TC-ASD 3913.

Mendelssohn: Symphony No 4. Berlin PO/Tennstedt. HMV ASD 3963; TC-ASD 3963.

Brahms: Violin Concerto. Hoelscher/North German Radio SO/Tennstedt. HMV ASD 3973; TC-ASD 3973.

Mendelssohn: Violin Concerto/Bruch: Violin Concerto No 1. Minz, Chicago SO/Abbado. DG 2531 304; TC-ASD 304.

Spoer: Clarinet concertos Nos 1-2. Pay/London Sinfonietta/Athenon. Argo ZRG 920.

Beethoven: Piano Concerto No 3. Rostropovich/SI. Lupa/Israel PO/Medba. Decca SXL 7507; KSXDC 7507.

Bartok: Piano concertos Nos 2-3. Ashkenazy/LPO/Solid. Decca SXL 6937; KSXDC 6937.

Bartok: Concerto for Orchestra, Two Pictures. Berlin PO/Manzel. DG 2331 269; TC-ASD 269.

Falla: The Three-Cornered Hat Suites Nos 1-2/Ravel: Rapsodie espagnole/Chabrier: España. Philadelphia Orchestra/Muti. HMV ASD 3902; TC-ASD 3902.

Falla: The Three-Cornered Hat Suites Nos 1-2/Rimsley-Korsakov: Capriccio espagnolo/Chabrier: España. Los Angeles PO/Lopez-Cobos. Decca SXL 6956; KSXDC 6956.

Why Maeterlinck? The new Philips box of music for *Pelléas et Mélisande* makes one wonder again that the Belgian poet's nebulous dramas should have attracted so many outstanding composers around the turn of the century. Within a dozen years of its first production, in 1893, *Pelléas et Mélisande* had become the subject not only of Debussy's opera but also of the three works recorded here: the incidental music by Fauré and Sibelius, and the symphonic poem by Schoenberg. No other literary work surely, has had so much of an influence in its own time.

David Zinnman's performances are, as they should be, acutely sensitive to the personal qualities of the three composers. Fauré's music captures most nearly the far-off delicacy and melancholic charm of the play, not least in the song "The Three Blind Sisters" which is here added to the concert suite and beautifully sung by Jill Gomez. Sibelius gives us a later-day saga with grim, castle walls and ominous seas, where as Schoenberg dives into the violent, fateful passions of the participants; his score is played with exactly the right manic intensity and fierce pressure. All three have *Mélisande* dying in D minor, but otherwise the views of the play are very different. What Maeterlinck offered them, it becomes clear, was not a text for interpretation but a mirror in which they could see themselves.

One of the few musical contemporaries to escape Maeterlinck's influence was Richard Strauss, though it was he who suggested *Pelléas* to Schoenberg as a subject, and it was to his tone poems that Schoenberg looked for models in composition.

posing his own; one is neatly reminded of this by André Previn's brilliantly characterized performances of *Don Juan*, *Till Eulenspiegel* and *Tod und Verklärung*. Digital sound takes Strauss's scoring to a new level of glamour, but it is Previn's wholehearted belief in the music that keeps it from vulgarizing. The climax of *Tod und Verklärung*, so difficult to get right, is for once grand and thrilling, not just cheap.

Klaus Tennstedt is another to benefit from HMV's vivid digital technique. There is a startling presence to his recordings of two of four symphonies, as well as a startling dynamism felt as an urgent tug in the bass. There is not much sunny lightness in this version of the "Italian" symphony, and though the work responds remarkably well to being treated for a dramatic, it is the Schumann that gains the most from Tennstedt's challenge. Where Mendelssohn's sound world is drastically altered, Schumann's is vigorously inhabited, and his symphony is shown as the marvel of expressive and structural wholeness it is.

Also from Tennstedt, this time with his own Hamburg orchestra, comes a revelatory performance of the Brahms Violin Concerto in which all the comfortableness is cut away to show the currents of soaring, almost neurotic emotion. Ulf Hoelscher, the soloist, produces a lean tone and often a wavering vibrato that brings out the anxiety in the work, and he uses the Kreisler cadenza to add

to the feeling of virtuosity under extreme stress. Even the finale, with the woodwind bringing a shrill edge to the orchestral tutti, is disarmingly hysterical in its ebullience.

For those who prefer sweet sentiment there is Shlomo Mintz's first recording, of concertos by Mendelssohn and Bruch. One can hardly blame him for luxuriating in the Bruch G minor, of course, but I find his moody indulgence in the Mendelssohn predilection and belittling. Claudio Abbado seems nonplussed, reduced to banging home a firm but unfeeling support.

Much more stylish performances of early romantic concertos are to be heard from Antony Pay and the London Sinfonietta under David Atherton in the first two of Spohr's four for clarinet. The second, in E flat, is a splendid outgoing piece whose slow movement includes amazing flights into the clarinet's stratosphere, while the first is more inward and searching, as befits its key of C minor. But, whether the music is agile or sombre, Pay quite rightly makes the solo line sound like refined song. Given such a persuasive recording, Spohr's artificiality only becomes apparent when one considers the piano concertos in the same keys that Beethoven was writing at roughly the same time: the "Emperor" and No 3, of which Radu Lupu adds a commanding performance to his earlier coupling of the first two concertos. Again Mehta and the Israel Philharmonic provide an unassuming foil for cultivated

and expressive piano playing, the solo instrument presented with uncanny accuracy by the digital recording.

Ashkenazy manages with lower-fidelity to give a winning account of himself in the second of his two Beethoven concertos, but I feel he is simply too nice a musician for No 2. A sharper test and a more brittle attack are needed here, as well as an orchestral accompaniment less inclined to point up particularities of texture and mood. Both Soli and Ashkenazy are more at home with Bartok's later style, joined there by an equally expressive Lorin Maazel in the Concerto for Orchestra. In this work, though, I would definitely prefer a more streamlined approach, and despite the fact that Maazel includes an appealing account of the early Two Pictures, it might be best to wait in hope for brighter releases in this Bartok war.

If Bartok's is the music of Hungary, then Chabrier's *España* is undoubtedly the most brilliant exploit in musical Hispanism, a view confirmed by two new recordings with almost identical programmes. In every way, Mintz's is the better. He is a little more reserved, but instead of Lopez-Cobos's Rimsley-Korsakov, it has all the diamond lustre of digital sound; and it is so free with verve, sheen and panache as to make its rival seem pale and staid. When French composers make the most Spanish music, we need not be surprised that an Italian conductor performs it most excitingly.

Paul Griffiths

Performance creating its own shimmering universe

The Rest of Gil Evans/Live at the Royal Festival Hall 1978. Mole Jazz MOL 3.

Film Noir: Ran Blake. Arista AN 3019.

Electronic Sonata for Souls Beloved by Nature. George Russell Sextet. Soul Note SN 1009.

MTBroom: Max Roach. Columbia (USA) TC 36247.

Those present at Gil Evans's London concert three years ago this week are unlikely ever to forget the enlivening experience of that master-class in the art of organizing jazz musicians and material so subtly that composition and improvisation became a single, infinitely flexible process.

Nothing summarizes Evans's apparently unassertive attitude to band-leading, as Max Harrison has noted, as perfectly as that passage from the *Tao Te Ching* which begins "The best of all rulers is but a shadowy presence to his subjects" and concludes "When his task is accomplished and his work is done the people all say, 'It happened to us naturally'." The Mole Jazz record, which rounds up the music left out of the first release from the Festival Hall concert (RCA PL25209), contains a perfect

realization of that aspect of his genius in its lengthy account of "Variation on the Mists", in which the 13 musicians are given no more than a slow 4/4 tempo and a grief-stricken eight-bar melody made up of four symmetrical dying falls, voiced in the upper registers of trumpets, soprano saxophone and flute, terminated on each repeat by a disturbing four-note bass figure.

Announced by Evans's own cryptic electric piano, and built around what may at first seem to be a meandering trumpet solo by Marvin Peterson, the performance creates its own shimmering universe, paced by Susan Evans's sensitive drumming and by John Clark's reed landscapes of fantastic, childlike detail.

A more overtly rigorous and equally bracing approach to composition can be heard on *Film Noir*, in which Ran Blake presents 11 absorbing pieces inspired by the work of directors from Lang to Chabrol,

delivered by a variety of instrumental configurations which begin with Blake's own solo piano and end with an 11-piece ensemble staffed by his students at the New England Conservatory's Third Stream Department.

Sometimes Blake recomposes the original theme music; otherwise he concocts his own interpretations from scratch. Nowhere, though, is any programmatic content allowed to deflect attention from the musical development. The music is as specifically evocative as the listener wishes it to be, except perhaps in the case of "Streeter". Named after the street where the impressionistic scoring for alto saxophone, guitar, piano, bass and drums is as vividly pictorial as the miniatures of Jelly Roll Morton and George Russell.

Russell himself, one of the most stimulating jazz composers of the Fifties and Sixties, has been virtually silent for a decade so the appearance of his *Soul Note* album, devoted to a new reading of an extended composition previously recorded by a sextet in 1969 and by a big band the following year, is welcome proof that diminished public activity has dulled neither his abilities nor his ideals.



Gil Evans

The sextet heard on this recording, including the brilliant French bassist J.F. Jenny Clark and two fine newcomers in Robert Moore, a saxophonist, and Victor Comer, a guitarist, is more relaxed than his 1960s equivalent. The intervening years have brought a more expansive attitude to the written "events", incorporating prepared tapes, on which the work is sketched, enabling a quality of interplay which grips throughout a very varied 50 minutes.

Max Roach's M'Boom is a percussion ensemble whose nine members, including relatively familiar performers like Joe Chambers and Roy Brooks, have assembled a programme of well-organized pieces which utilize tuned percussion, from xylophone to timpani, as well as African Latin and jazz drums, placing as much emphasis on melody as on rhythm.

Recorded with startling clarity (as part of Columbia's digital Mastersound series) this is an unusual and very fresh album, taking in exquisite Oriental trances, atmospheric Africanisms and a audacious version of Monk's "Epitaph" in which Chambers's vibraphone improvisation rides above a waltz bass line provided by Omar Clay's trumpet. Roach's magisterial command of the trap set comes through more clearly in a duet with Ray Mantilla's timbales on "Canaveral", now perhaps someone in the West will make available his marvellous LP solo improvisations, issued on *Solo* (Bayview RV 603), a truly remarkable and specialist jazz record shop.

Richard Williams

PHILIPS

VERDI: FALSTAFF

Herbert von Karajan's new digital recording

Giuseppe Taddel / Rolando Panzeri / Francisco Araiza / Piero de Palma / Heinz Zednik / Federico Davia / Raina Kabaivanska / Janet Perry / Christa Ludwig / Trudese Schmidt

Vienna State Opera Chorus and the Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra

DIGITAL 6769 045 3 LPs DIGITAL 7504 260 3 MCs

Twenty-four years have elapsed since Herbert von Karajan first recorded Falstaff. Philips Records proudly announce Herbert von Karajan's latest version of the work at their first digitally recorded opera and their first with the Maestro conducting.

Giuseppe Taddel as Falstaff views his participation in the recording with great enthusiasm. "The interpretation of Falstaff means for a singer like me the absolute summit. It is a role in which the aged Verdi has accumulated all his composing skills. For me this opera is Verdi's best. Indeed Falstaff marked the re-birth of opera buffa in Italian opera. It was labelled the comic opera of all times, and it put the larger-than-life-size character of Falstaff on the opera stage in all his splendour and vividness."

All Philips deluxe new releases are now imported from Holland.

Philips Classical Collection

فكرنا من الأصل

PERSONAL CHOICE

Broadcasting Guide

Edited by Peter Davale

TELEVISION

BBC 1

7.40

Open University: Maths,

supers: 8.05 World Food

Production. Closes at 8.30.

8.05 Swin: The break stroke (r).

8.30 Multi-Coloured Swap Shop:

Includes Barry Took's Points

of View, Showaddywaddy and Status

Quo. 12.12 Weather.

1.15 Grandstand: The line-up is

12.20 Football Focus: 12.50 Box-

ing: Dove "Boy Green in

action at the Royal Albert Hall;

International: Scotland (The

Crash Holes Challenge, England v

India v Sweden) at 1.05 and 1.55;

Motorcycle (1.57-2.00) and

pursuits (from Wiltshire) at 1.25

2.25 and 3.15; Racing from Stock-

ton at 2.15; News and 2.45 (The

Vain Breweries Novice: Steeple-

chase Final); Indoor Hockey

(Rank Xerox Indoor Inter-

national: Scotland v England v

Austria v Denmark) at 2.55 and

3.15.

3.25 Film: Upper World (1934)

Drama about blackmail and murder.

Based on a Ben Hecht story,

with Ginger Rogers as burlesque

actress. Also starring Warren

Henry, Mary Astor, Director:

Roy Del Ruth. *3.55 Play Away:

Comedy and music. With Brian

Cant and the regular company.

5.00 Film: The Intimate Stranger

(1956) British-made thriller about

an American film producer

(Richard Basehart) who receives

some puzzlingly romantic letters.

With Mary Murphy, Roger Live-

sey, Director: Joseph Losey.

5.35 Did You See...? PTV pro-

gramme discussing tonight's

Panorama special on Britain's

security services. The ATV film

about James Baldwin and the

scholar, Director: John Peel.

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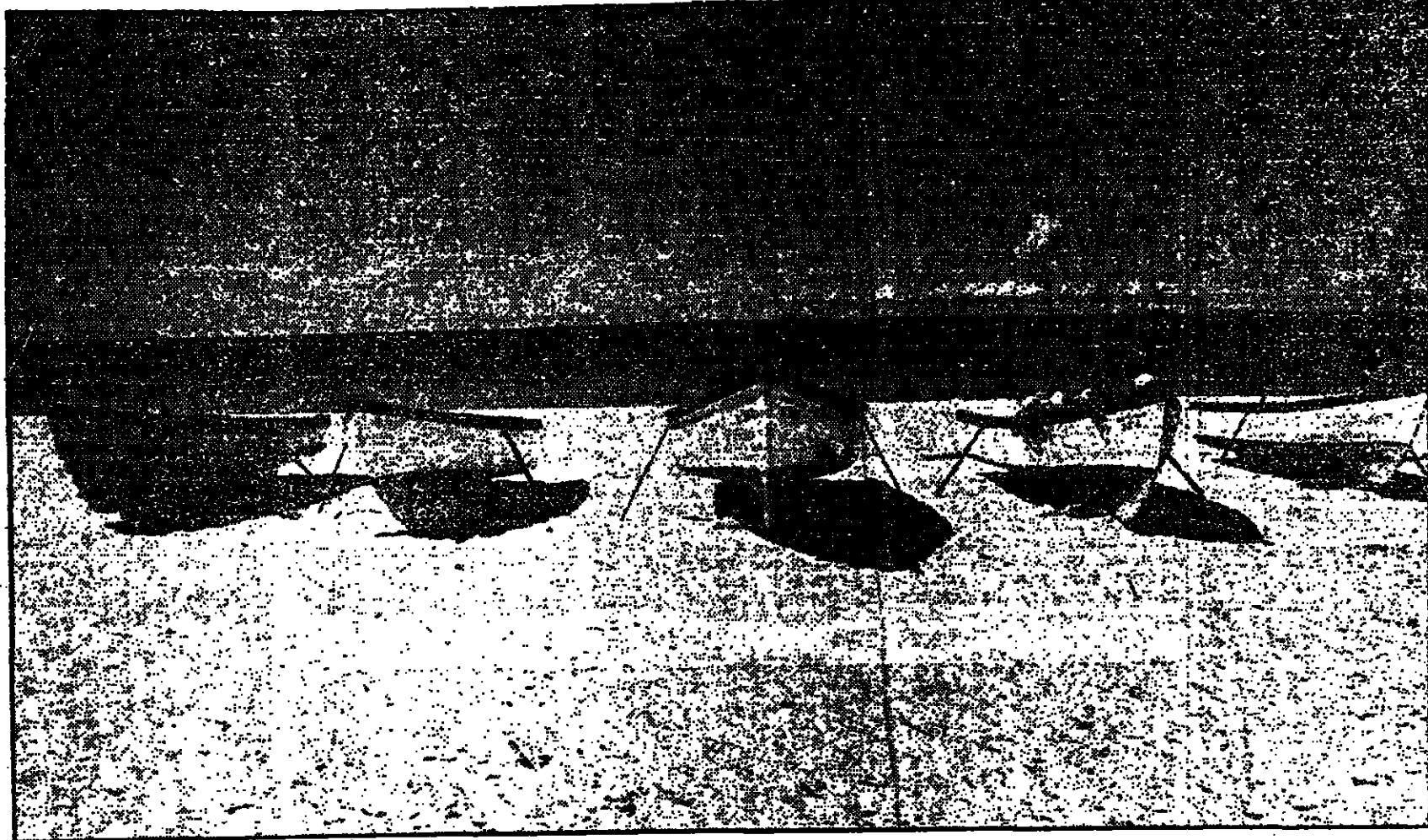
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Harry Golombek

Travel

Anguilla: the perfect solution



The most secluded coral sand white beaches in the world

Once upon a time there was a nameless, eel-shaped Caribbean island, 16 miles long by three miles wide, inhabited by a tribe of Arawaks. They were artistic and benign; they lived in perfect harmony, breathing in and breathing out, harming not a soul. They were slaughtered by Caribbians, worshippers of Mani-rou, principle of evil—whose dietary habits included eating other people. They called the island Maltiouhans, about their last positive act before being wiped out by the Spanish. Serve them right.

Presumably, because of the eel-shape, the Spanish adopted the title Anguilla. They surrendered the island to the British in 1650 and, barring an occasional rude infraction by the French and a party of "Wild Irishmen", Anguilla remained a British colony for 300 years.

By 1717 the population was 1,209, of whom 824 were slaves of African descent. Today the population is 6,000, with possibly an equal number living abroad.

Eventually Anguilla was, for political, economic and administrative purposes, linked with the sister islands of St Kitts and Nevis; but Anguilla, a proud, independent breed, did not much care for the arrangement. They did not care for playing second fiddle, they did not care for an inequitable distribution

of financial aid and, more than anything, they disapproved of the attitude of Premier Bradshaw of St Kitts. So they did something about it.

On May 30, 1967, Anguilla made a Unilateral Declaration of Independence, expelling the St Kitts police force for good measure. The "revolution" was led by a local businessman, Ronald Webster, who drew up a new constitution for Anguilla and her dependent territories of Scrub Island, Dog Island, Prickley Pear Cays, Sandy Island and Sombrero—none of which is inhabited, apart from the lighthouse-keeper on Sombrero. Everyone shouted "Hallelujah" and "Anguilla forever" and a few conch shells were tossed into the air. In the jubilation rather than for any more sinister motive, several shots were also discharged skywards, one of which lodged in the bedroom ceiling of a Peace Corps language instructor.

Meanwhile across the sea in St Kitts, Mr Bradshaw became "Chief of the Armed Forces of St Kitts". Threats of armed retaliation fizzled out, but the debate continued vociferously between Whitehall and the rebellious colony 4,000 miles away.

On March 19, 1969, after an abortive visit by William Whitlock, British Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth

Affairs, Britain invaded Anguilla. Two Royal Navy frigates, HMS Minerva and HMS Rothesay, steamed into Anguillian waters. The Parachute Regiment landed 315 crack Red Devils, the Metropolitan Police Force sent in 50 London bobbies, to take on Anguilla's military might... which consisted of four not very well oiled Lee Enfield rifles under lock and key.

The paratroopers set up road blocks, made body searches, prodded among the bananas in old ladies' shopping baskets. Ronald Webster, by now the island's Chief Minister, did not know of the invasion until questioned by a reporter concerning his reaction. He was in the bath at the time. One shot was inadvertently fired in the direction of a small plane bearing a complement of journalists come to witness the holocaust in which not a single life was sacrificed. It must have been the most peaceful war in history.

The Times referred to the incident (code-named Operation Calypso) as "A Caribbean tragedy-comedy" and there, more or less, matters rested. Until, in January this year, Anguilla formally separated from the Associated States of St Kitts/Nevis. I was invited by the Anguillian Government to attend the celebrations, British Air-

ways flying me to Antigua from where I connected with Leeward Islands Air Transport (affectionately known as Lugeage in Another Town) on its twice weekly nine-passenger hop to Anguilla.

Celebrations consisted of boat races, a chicken-leg beach barbecue, a cocktail party, a march-past parade and speech ceremony. This latter event was hampered by a malfunction in the public address system and by the unorthodox singing of the rostrum which faced speakers in the opposite direction to their audience. Fortunately a high proportion of the crowd was equipped with transistor sets which turned to full volume, faithfully relayed the speeches from Radio Anguilla's studio.

The oratory was rhetorical, lengthy, the heat so intense that assembled contingents of police, boy scouts and girl guides parading for the march-past felt it at their best to retreat to break ranks in order to seek the shade. Altogether it was an occasion of good humour and immense charm, the like of which I would be happy to see emulated on Horseguards' Parade or Red Square.

Christopher Columbus, Diego Velasco, and Norman St John Steele are just a few of the famous people who have never been to Anguilla. Had they done so, they would have discovered a scrubby, featureless landscape rising majestically to an elevation at Crocus Hill, 213 feet above sea-level. There are no streams or rivers, no coconut palms, no hotels, no coconuts will feed our children, world recessions come and hotels go bust. He is humoured, respected as an elder-statesman, yet his warnings go unheeded. Which is understandable, because all Anguilla has at the moment is peace, it is a "remittance island", supported by Anguillians working abroad and by Whitehall. The lobster fishing industry, the sale of goats bring in little revenue. Tourism could make the island rich.

It could also pollute the land, pollute the sea, pollute the gentle Anguillians. It could bring envy and discontent, drugs, alcoholism, racism. There is much to be learned from neighbouring tourist-affluent Caribbean countries. But it is really a case of the devil's alternative.

Of course there are still a couple of details to attend to: like how do you make it rain more (desalination is very expensive), provide adequate electricity, reliable roads and telephone services.

How do you actually get visitors to the island? Wallblake airport has not even got landing lights at the moment. How do you train Anguillians to mix with Harvey Wallbangers, serve minestrone, wear monkey jackets, extend their palms for tips? Import staff from other islands, I suppose; but would not that defeat the purpose?

The Anguillian Government and its advisers have the finest intentions: they see the problems, as they have noted the warnings. They are planning for the best, for exclusive tourism, for the big-spenders. It is simply that the melancholy thought occurs to me that there are not many Anguillians left; and what will we do when they are all gone, those of us who have resisted joining the international clubs of togetherness and conformity?

Yes, I know Anguilla needs the cash; I know you can not see those sunsets at West End Village. But I also fear that once it all happens, Anguilla will be emotionally resentful—which is the beginning of the end.

I think perhaps I have come up with the perfect solution: if you are considering helping Anguilla's struggle to achieve ideal tourism, why not send your money and stay at home?

Michael Watkins

Travel Notes: British Airways return flights London-Anguilla: First Class, £1,052; Economy, £790. Healey Marlar, 36 Ebury Street, London SW1W 0LU, specialize in villa holidays in Anguilla. Tel: 01-730 8706.

each with a view of mountainous St Maarten across the bay, each with a toothy smiling maid like Ermine who made my coffee and made my day trying to keep up with her petrels. (These, and other cottages to rent, are included in the Healey Marlar Anguilla portfolio, 36 Ebury Street, London SW1W 0LU. Tel: 01-730 8706.)

But all this is going to change. At least, they say it is. The Chief Minister says so: Hubert Hughes, Minister of Natural Resources, says so: Charles Godden, Her Majesty's Commissioner, says so. When you come to think of it, about the only one who doesn't say so is Jeremiah Gumbs. There is a government "Three Year Tourism Plan" projecting to sponsor "controlled development" of tourist facilities up to 1,400 hotel and apartment beds by 1983.

Sandy Ground today is a village enclosed by an exquisite bay. There is a cluster of wooden cottages, two wooden jetties, a salt-pan. One development, Rose Cudde, has shown me plans for a yacht marina, Olympic swimming pool, tennis courts, apartments and bars: the new Sandy Ground, I have no doubt that Cudde's blueprint for the future is professionally conceived, as it will be methodically executed; he seems a thoughtful, caring man. I just hope they know what they are doing, what they are really doing. The trouble with progress is that it is irreversible.

Jeremiah Gumbs is not convinced: "Anguilla will be destroyed by insular tourism. We need to plant coconuts palm trees, not hotels, coconuts will feed our children, world recessions come and hotels go bust." He is humoured, respected as an elder-statesman, yet his warnings go unheeded. Which is understandable, because all Anguilla has at the moment is peace, it is a "remittance island", supported by Anguillians working abroad and by Whitehall. The lobster fishing industry, the sale of goats bring in little revenue. Tourism could make the island rich.

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Bridge

What the Butler played

"Only the flamingos were missing." My informant's whimsical comparison of the BBL Trials with the Queen of Hearts's croquet party may have been a little far fetched, but apparently freaks were abundant, and horrible distractions commonplace. It came as no surprise that the results were topsy-turvy. These eight pairs qualified for the final trial, which is to be held in London from March 13 to 15: B. Mervin, G. Calderwood (540), H. Kelsey, J. McMonagle (496), C. Dixon, V. Silverstone (495), G. T. Kirby, J. M. Armstrong (489), W. Pencharz, R. S. Brock (477), J. D. R. Collings, P. D. Hackett (470), R. M. Sheehan, L. N. Rose (460), Dr. A. P. Sowter, S. J. Lodge (459).

Without implying that the successful pairs did not play well, it was bitterly disappointing that Forrester and Smolksi, who had made such a promising debut at Valkenburg, should fall at the first fence. The summary elimination of Friday and Rodriguez suggests that the British Bridge League process of selection needs an urgent overhaul. Great Britain man still be represented by a good team, perhaps, with luck, a very good team, but I regret, not the best team.

Many leading players mistrust the so-called Butler method of scoring. I am so convinced that it is mathematically unsound that I would like to see its use confined to consolation events in Puddleby-on-Marsh. Conceding that Butler assumes a greater significance, the apologetics of the Butler method argue that the luck will even itself out. Not over 150 boards, I can assure them. Unless the trials are extended very considerably, the results could be unreliable, possibly even meaningless.

Fortunately, the selectors' Russian roulette passed off without accident in the Ladies' Trials. Great Britain will be strongly represented in both the Common Market and the European Championships by this team: Mrs S. Landy and Mrs S. Sowter, Miss N. Gardener and Miss P. Davies, Mrs M. Dennison and Mrs A. W. S. Williams.

It would be unfair to blame the selectors entirely. They are in a consuming job which no one seems to want. As none of them has ever represented

Great Britain in a European or World Championship, it is understandable that they should prefer to rely on the bare results rather than exercise their skill and judgment to override them. The real trouble stems from the British Bridge League's entrenched determination to appear democratic at all costs.

Criticism which offers no constructive suggestion makes depressing reading. Here is a formula which pays tribute to democracy, yet ensures as far as possible that Britain will be represented by the strongest team. Exempt up to four pairs whom the selectors might consider are the "probables" from the first stage, permitting them to form their own two teams. Add four more pairs from the preliminary trial. Insist that the final trial will be no less than 600 boards. I do not expect to see this plan implemented, for anything which gives more power to the King will be unpopular with the Pretender and the Barons.

John Collings has not represented Great Britain since 1966. After a convincing victory in the trials the following year, Collings, in common with Cansino, Friday and myself, took the unprecedented step of refusing to play in the Championships. Stern criticism of the selectors in the following year, Collings, in common with Cansino, Friday and myself, took the unprecedented step of refusing to play in the Championships. Stern criticism of the selectors in the following year, Collings, in common with Cansino, Friday and myself, took the unprecedented step of refusing to play in the Championships.

Butler scoring East-West Game all

Opening lead ♠2
West North East South
No. 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48 49 50 51 52 53 54 55 56 57 58 59 60 61 62 63 64 65 66 67 68 69 70 71 72 73 74 75 76 77 78 79 80 81 82 83 84 85 86 87 88 89 90 91 92 93 94 95 96 97 98 99 100 101 102 103 104 105 106 107 108 109 110 111 112 113 114 115 116 117 118 119 120 121 122 123 124 125 126 127 128 129 130 131 132 133 134 135 136 137 138 139 140 141 142 143 144 145 146 147 148 149 150 151 152 153 154 155 156 157 158 159 160 161 162 163 164 165 166 167 168 169 170 171 172 173 174 175 176 177 178 179 180 181 182 183 184 185 186 187 188 189 190 191 192 193 194 195 196 197 198 199 200 201 202 203 204 205 206 207 208 209 210 211 212 213 214 215 216 217 218 219 220 221 222 223 224 225 226 227 228 229 230 231 232 233 234 235 236 237 238 239 240 241 242 243 244 245 246 247 248 249 250 251 252 253 254 255 256 257 258 259 260 261 262 263 264 265 266 267 268 269 270 271 272 273 274 275 276 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Holidays and Hotels in Great Britain & Ireland

Wales

King's Hall Country House Hotel
Llanwrtyd Wells, Gwynedd, N. Wales.
Take a Fresh Look at Wales!
Only 20 minutes from the most beautiful of all Wales's most beautiful country houses.
Over-looked by the majestic Snowdonia and yet with its own very special atmosphere, King's Hall is a truly beautiful hotel.
The hotel is a Grade II listed building, a fine example of the architecture of the 18th century. It has been converted into a hotel and is now a truly beautiful hotel.
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PLAS OWEN HOTEL
GLYNCEIRIO, LLANSOLLEN, CLYD
Tel. 05913 215
New fully licensed hotel, opened in 1980. Set amongst the hills above the village of Glynceirio. The hotel is a truly beautiful hotel, a fine example of the architecture of the 18th century. It has been converted into a hotel and is now a truly beautiful hotel.

GROVE HOTEL, ST DAVID'S
Cine beautiful, comfortable, and well-furnished hotel, set in the heart of the town of St David's. The hotel is a truly beautiful hotel, a fine example of the architecture of the 18th century. It has been converted into a hotel and is now a truly beautiful hotel.

LEEMING ON ULLSWATER
A truly beautiful hotel, set in the heart of the town of Leeming. The hotel is a truly beautiful hotel, a fine example of the architecture of the 18th century. It has been converted into a hotel and is now a truly beautiful hotel.

WEEKENDS WITH A DIFFERENCE
Victorian weekend, with steam train, and a truly beautiful hotel, set in the heart of the town of Leeming. The hotel is a truly beautiful hotel, a fine example of the architecture of the 18th century. It has been converted into a hotel and is now a truly beautiful hotel.

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Following the imprisonment of Wexhampton's MP a meeting was held in the upstairs room of the 'Langman's Noose' public house to adopt a new candidate. However, far too much of 'Goodie's Grog' was consumed, a riot broke out and in the confusion the wrong candidate was adopted. His name is Morgan Sansbrain.

The alleged son of Mr. and Mrs. Abdul Sansbrain, Morgan was an exceptional child. Walking at 7 years, talking and using joined-up letters by the time he went up to Balliol. Morgan did not take his degree but was awarded a C.S.E. (Needlework Grade 5) by way of compensation.

Morgan is a tailor's nightmare. No part of the left side of his body mirrors his right and the positioning of his ears causes grave problems for opticians. He has, in fact, taken to wearing two monocles.

Intellectually, Morgan is about as active as a dead sheep. His inability to distinguish talking from hissing results in most of his utterances being likened to random noise. Throughout his political life Morgan has been active in supporting certain vital causes. He has temporarily forgotten what they are.

For years Morgan has been fighting to put Wexhampton on the map, and is confident he will shortly find the address of the Ordnance Survey Office.

Morgan is unmarried, lives in a rented shed north of Wexhampton and lists his hobbies as cartography and needlework.

You have been appointed Morgan's political agent. Your first job is to write in not more than 100 words a press release detailing Morgan Sansbrain, his life and political ambitions.



Now answer the following simple questions. The answers are to be found in the advertisements in this feature.

1. If a spot of rough shooting would be your target, where would you go?
2. Where would you find a combination of Swiss tradition and fine cuisine?
3. Which hotel offers the style and elegance of former times?

Send your press release and answers to 'Vote for Morgan Sansbrain' c/o The Times, 12 Coley Street, London WC9 9YT.

The winner will receive a free weekend for two at the Doly-Coed Hotel, Breconshire, Mid-Wales—one of the most beautifully situated hotels in the British Isles. All entries to be in by Friday, 6th March, 1981.

East Anglia

NORTH NORFOLK—Cavalier castle, surrounded by the sea, with a truly beautiful hotel, set in the heart of the town of Leeming. The hotel is a truly beautiful hotel, a fine example of the architecture of the 18th century. It has been converted into a hotel and is now a truly beautiful hotel.

General
Escape to the peace of the ISLAND HOTEL, TRESCO
A truly beautiful hotel, set in the heart of the town of Leeming. The hotel is a truly beautiful hotel, a fine example of the architecture of the 18th century. It has been converted into a hotel and is now a truly beautiful hotel.

WESSEX HIDEWAYS—Picturesque cottages, set in the heart of the town of Leeming. The hotel is a truly beautiful hotel, a fine example of the architecture of the 18th century. It has been converted into a hotel and is now a truly beautiful hotel.

HEREFORDSHIRE—Delightful hotel, set in the heart of the town of Leeming. The hotel is a truly beautiful hotel, a fine example of the architecture of the 18th century. It has been converted into a hotel and is now a truly beautiful hotel.

Ireland
Self Catering in Beautiful Tramora
Tramora has absolutely everything to offer the holidaymaker. The hotel is a truly beautiful hotel, a fine example of the architecture of the 18th century. It has been converted into a hotel and is now a truly beautiful hotel.

SPORT AND ADVENTURE
GOLFERS HOLIDAY WITH LEISURE ACTIVITIES
Luxury apartment, for 2, with a truly beautiful hotel, set in the heart of the town of Leeming. The hotel is a truly beautiful hotel, a fine example of the architecture of the 18th century. It has been converted into a hotel and is now a truly beautiful hotel.

CHILDREN'S HOLIDAYS
Exciting children's holidays, with a truly beautiful hotel, set in the heart of the town of Leeming. The hotel is a truly beautiful hotel, a fine example of the architecture of the 18th century. It has been converted into a hotel and is now a truly beautiful hotel.

FLAT SHARING
MAYNARD FLAT—Graduate/graduate, with a truly beautiful hotel, set in the heart of the town of Leeming. The hotel is a truly beautiful hotel, a fine example of the architecture of the 18th century. It has been converted into a hotel and is now a truly beautiful hotel.

RENTALS
CHESTERTONS
Furnished Rental and Management, with a truly beautiful hotel, set in the heart of the town of Leeming. The hotel is a truly beautiful hotel, a fine example of the architecture of the 18th century. It has been converted into a hotel and is now a truly beautiful hotel.

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North

YORKSHIRE DALES
THE FALCON MANOR
A truly beautiful hotel, set in the heart of the town of Leeming. The hotel is a truly beautiful hotel, a fine example of the architecture of the 18th century. It has been converted into a hotel and is now a truly beautiful hotel.

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Scotland

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HOLIDAYS & HOTELS in Great Britain & Ireland appear every SATURDAY

For details ring

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If you're planning a journey The Times is just the ticket.

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THE TIMES

PERSONAL also on page 26

MOTOR CARS

COLLECTORS CAR—INVESTMENT!

A beautiful example of this classic Vauxhall 1964 model, with a truly beautiful hotel, set in the heart of the town of Leeming. The hotel is a truly beautiful hotel, a fine example of the architecture of the 18th century. It has been converted into a hotel and is now a truly beautiful hotel.

1979 RANGE ROVER ESTATE

Gold with matching interior, with a truly beautiful hotel, set in the heart of the town of Leeming. The hotel is a truly beautiful hotel, a fine example of the architecture of the 18th century. It has been converted into a hotel and is now a truly beautiful hotel.

AUDI AVANT CDE

7 Reg. 12 years green/green, with a truly beautiful hotel, set in the heart of the town of Leeming. The hotel is a truly beautiful hotel, a fine example of the architecture of the 18th century. It has been converted into a hotel and is now a truly beautiful hotel.

WANTED

WANTED URGENTLY new or used, with a truly beautiful hotel, set in the heart of the town of Leeming. The hotel is a truly beautiful hotel, a fine example of the architecture of the 18th century. It has been converted into a hotel and is now a truly beautiful hotel.

ROLLS-ROYCE & BENTLEY

SHADOW II "S" reg. Agency, with a truly beautiful hotel, set in the heart of the town of Leeming. The hotel is a truly beautiful hotel, a fine example of the architecture of the 18th century. It has been converted into a hotel and is now a truly beautiful hotel.

FLAT SHARING

WIMBORNE, nr. Southfields Tube, with a truly beautiful hotel, set in the heart of the town of Leeming. The hotel is a truly beautiful hotel, a fine example of the architecture of the 18th century. It has been converted into a hotel and is now a truly beautiful hotel.

RENTALS

KENSINGTON

Delightful 2-bedroom flat, with a truly beautiful hotel, set in the heart of the town of Leeming. The hotel is a truly beautiful hotel, a fine example of the architecture of the 18th century. It has been converted into a hotel and is now a truly beautiful hotel.

AYLESFORD

Delightful 2-bedroom flat, with a truly beautiful hotel, set in the heart of the town of Leeming. The hotel is a truly beautiful hotel, a fine example of the architecture of the 18th century. It has been converted into a hotel and is now a truly beautiful hotel.

ST. JOHNS WOOD

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Fred Emery

The new team, arming for the real fight

"Social Democrat!" scolded a Tory MP as Labour's front bench spokesman told the Commons how a small businessman, now on the dole, had been apologizing to him for voting for Mrs Thatcher. Dr David Owen hugged himself with glee as a significant little debate on the economy and employment in southern England—the affluent South—produced Tory after Tory in lament over Government policy.

If the Social Democrats—who next week break with Labour as the final step before the full launching of their new party in April—are now to be seen as the natural refuge of discontented Tory voters, then they are indeed in business. Such a remark would have been inconceivable a month ago, and is vivid testimony to the political distance covered since Labour's Wembley conference five weeks ago.

The Social Democrats are treated with scorn, betraying unease, by Tory and Labour leaders alike. And they seem to have been surprised as well as gratified by Mrs Thatcher's suggestion a fortnight ago that they were a slower form of the poison she ascribed to the Bennite left. It used to be judged bad politics to mention your opponents, to insult them elevates them as well as granting free publicity.

That commodity, of course, has not been in short supply. Rightly, as a political phenomenon, they have been treated prominently. Understandably, that anxious rival politicians, particularly in the Labour

Party. Not all of it can have helped the Social Democrats.

The formation of the Council for Social Democracy has already gained 25,000 supporters and has aroused expectations that cannot be fulfilled. A lot of people wish that the party had been formed immediately. Many more probably assume that it does already exist, judging by the accounts of Thames TV Eye programme last Thursday which ran a trial run of popular reactions and mock promotion—billboards, party political and all—as if it actually existed.

So a brief stocktaking of where matters are and where some of the participants think they are going is in order. First, the immediate events. Mr John Cartwright's sudden defection from Labour is an unlooked-for bonus for the Social Democrats. He brings organizational skill and commitment, as a former Labour agent; he also brings to a dozen the number of MPs who are set to resign their party Whip before Tuesday's debate on the nuclear deterrent.

By then the drawn-out process of consulting friends in local parties and unions will have been completed, with Mr William Rodgers, last of the gang of three to complete the formalities, making a statement of his intentions tomorrow.

Resigning the Whip produces a new grouping, the third largest in the Commons, with spokesmen attacking Opposition as well as Government, seeking to catch the Speaker's eye. But the present intention is not to resign seats and contest by-

elections under new colours. Several explanations are offered.

The main one is strategy. This, the reporter is left in no doubt, is a deadly serious offensive on the major parties at the next general election. The objective is to form a government, either by outright victory or by gaining enough seats to determine who forms the next government with them.

It is not that all the recent opinion polls indicating this possibility have gone to people's heads; victory is their steady objective. It is an immense task that will take thorough preparation and mobilization as a party.

Creating the party organization has first priority, with all the emphasis on computerizing membership records, and formulating and building new democratic structures. If you have campaigned in vain to get one-member-one-vote inside the Labour Party, that system must prevail in the new party.

So without a party in being—and not until April will it be launched—and no structure for selection of candidates likely for months, no by-election will be sought. Another reason is that by simply resigning seats MPs have no control of the date for a by-election. Even if all 17 resigned, they could be sure that the Conservative and Labour Whips would collude to ensure that by-elections did not occur all on the same day. Only if Mr Foot's search for reinforcements for the depleted Labour peers provoked by-elections would the Social

Democrats be tempted to test the vote.

This reluctance which risks being seen in conventional terms as a lack of fight, could well surprise some of the group's more impatient supporters. But the gang of four, who are reputedly maintaining a general collective leadership at their regular Monday meetings, are determined not to be rushed and have their challenge botched.

Neither, it is said, do they wish to impose themselves as self-appointed leaders.

Preoccupation with proper organization also means that it is unlikely that there will be a lengthy policy manifesto issued at the party launching. Impatience to know what the party stands for is acknowledged, but the wish is to avert detailed policy commitments until the real fight at a general election. So what seems most feasible is some extension of the original statement of aims, originally put perhaps too negatively in the "Limehouse declaration".

There is no lack of ideas. Dr David Owen's book will be followed by Mrs Shirley Williams's (*Politics for People*) out in mid-April. According to advance publicity, she holds that politicians, especially the Social Democrats, "will have to make a quantum jump in their thinking, a leap to a new approach, if the west is to move forward". Mr Roy Jenkins's programme of speeches include the part adoption of Professor James Meade's novel ideas for an incomes policy, as well as the growing

camp being inspanned they believed that the occupation of the hill had turned Laing's Neck.

They were soon disabused. "About 1.30 pm, the two companies of Boers who had scaled the highest part of the hill, suddenly appeared on the skyline. The troops lining the hill, taken by surprise, gave way and fell back."

General Colley's second-in-command, Lt-Col Herbert Stewart, described the confusion, rapidly leading to panic, which ensued. General Colley led reinforcements to the crest, only to be met by the main Boer force, which was retreating rapidly. An order was then given to cease fire and retire, although no necessity for so doing would appear to have existed. The troops of the front line ran in upon those who were retreating, causing confusion.

A war correspondent, John Cameron, of the *Standard*, was more explicit. "For the first time it dawned upon us that we might lose the hill for the soldiers moved forward slowly and hesitatingly. It was evident that they did not like the work before them. An officer said of the enemy, 'Oh! There they are, quite close', and the words were hardly out of his mouth as every man of the reinforcements bolted back panic-stricken."

The Boers advanced rapidly, as though on a game shoot. The whole British line gave way and poured over the steep slopes of the hill, back the way they had come a few hours before. A lieutenant of the Gordons tried to rally his men, threatening to shoot anyone who passed him. But this type of warfare was outside the redcoats' experience, and there was no skill of the pipes to rally them. As Cameron said, it was a game of hide-and-seek.

"The Boers were on the ridge above, and for 10 minutes kept up their terrible fire on our soldiers, who plunged down every path. Many, exhausted with the marching, lay down behind rocks and bushes and were taken prisoner."... not the kind of despatch the jingoists liked to read.

A few weeks later an armistice was signed and the Boers were given back the Transvaal, with checks on their foreign policy. Eighteen years later in the second round of the conflict, at Elandsburg, a few miles from Majuba, the Gordons stormed the Boer positions with the cry "Remember Majuba" on their lips.

states that "from the shelters to part of the last 400 yards of the ascent could be seen", and it was just this climb that, towards midday, nearly 200 Boer commandos, under Piet Joubert, were making. "Stung into action by the sight of the red jackets on Majuba, the Boers had kept up a regular sniping to force the occupiers to keep their heads down. The report says: 'The British did not appreciate the immensity of the danger, and seeing the wagons in the Boer

its constantly being patrolled by Boer scouts the mountain had not been reconnoitred beforehand." The mountain top formed a shallow basin and had a false crest, which meant that the garrison could be seen without seeing very clearly themselves. Thus, an enemy cleverly using bushcraft—and both Boers and Zulus were adepts at it—could be on top of them almost before they realized it.

The lie of the land was crucial in what followed and significantly an annotation to the official report says: "Owing to



A war sketch of the retreat from Majuba hill. From the Illustrated London News.

(now the Northamptonshire Regiment) and sailors of the Naval Brigade, were issued with 70 rounds of ammunition per man and three days' rations. They clanked their way up the steep, rocky slopes, losing order in the pitch darkness that fell as the Boer pickets might well be listening for them. The 2,000ft summit reached at dawn was deserted.

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Letter from Hama

Alone with the mighty water wheels

Being the only tourist in Hama is a little like exploring Madame Tussauds long after the last curator has locked up and gone home. Syria's perennially dissenting has assured that no visitors travel up to Hama these days; but the place is as dreamlike as ever: even the gothic-faced security men possess a statuesque quality as they stare indifferently across the Orontes at the empty palaces and clattering water wheels.

At least seven of the 10 great wooden norias—400 years old and up to 60ft high—are still turning, their weathered blades clacking and vibrating and sluicing the Orontes on to crumbling aqueducts. They are patched with rotting planks, their stone mountings slippery with dark lichen. The papyrus and mosaic records of the city's Byzantine rulers depict their 800-year-old predecessors in Spain, Greece and Egypt. There are irrigation water wheels of identical design but none are as grand as the norias of Hama.

The promenades of deserted cafés stretch into the river so that the tourists who no longer arrive can catch the spray. The wheels groan on stump-like axles and if the Niagara of water that teem back into the river bear witness to the rule, their ceaseless revolutions at least suggest that the people of Hama take some pride in their almost timeless existence. All over the city, you can hear the grinding of obsolete Victorian machinery.

The French writer Maurice Barthe set once by the Orontes at Hama, watching the evening swallows and reflecting upon the "inexplicable nostalgia" of the wheels—"like poems come to life. And it is not just the wheels that give Hama its gentle decadence. Not far from the Al-Nuri mosque, an ancient arch bridge crosses the Orontes, carrying a narrow road which disappears into a cluster of vaulted tunnels. Sunlight shafts between medieval houses where roofs are supported on carved beams beneath cupolas. Steep, heavily worn steps lead off the cobbled road and mullahs appear suddenly from the darkness, walking steadily, heads down, towards old wooden gates.

"The water wheels are hinged to some of the outer walls and along the dark corridors there comes the sound of creaking timber and the splash of water. The people of Hama do not take easily to visitors. Their history has been a violent one since the second millennium BC, a story of prosperity and sudden destruction. Plundered by the Hittites in 1750 BC, by

the Arameans in 1100 BC, by Sargon II in 750 BC and devastated by an earthquake in 1157 AD, Hama eventually achieved a measure of political stability after Saladin's armies swept northwards. Perhaps that is why the 100,000 population—90 per cent of whom are Sunni Muslim—are so devoted. Damascus calls them rebellious; why else, they ask, has there been violence against the government at Hama? In the streets of the old quarter, even unformed schoolboys wear a black veil over their faces.

Less obscure was the gentle man from the state police on the old bridge. Wearing a long leather coat and frameless glasses, this cheerful Polonius, listened intently to our request for directions to the Beit Azem museum and then gave the most specific instructions to us in flawless English.

The tourist ministry should hire him when things get back to normal. They should ensure, too, that visitors do not return to Hama for the Beit Azem is one of the most beautiful palaces in Syria. The Azems were the Rockefeller of Hama, a wealthy family of Maccanese-like aristocrats who governed and influenced the city for well over two centuries. Assad Pasha al-Azem was governor of Hama in 1700 and a descendant became prime minister of Syria. The palace courtyard is now surrounded by Roman remains, mosaics and Byzantine Christian tombs.

There is a small room at the back into which guides do not normally take their visitors. These are our martyrs, the curator's assistant said and turned on a lamp. And there around the walls was a series of faded grey photographs of serious-looking young men in Ottoman regalia and French cavalry uniform and in Arab dress, some carrying Lee-Enfield rifles.

Many of the men are Azems, youths who once wore the uniform of the French army and air force but who later turned against their French masters—Syrian colonial armies—and died fighting them.

On another wall is a man who looks like a young Gary Cooper, hair waved and slicked back, jaw jutting in heroic pose. He is Farid Adib Azem who was killed while fighting the Israelis in 1948. The pictures are not unlike the more lugubrious personal photographs that now adorn the walls of Beirut 1,200 miles away, where self-destruction is rather easier to come by. Hama, it seems, also has a propensity for "martyrdom".

Robert Fisk

Ipsé Dixit

Do not believe there is a place called Generation Gap where Mister Big Jim Limbo precipitates cream from crap: a woman lacking manhood though vowed to feminine; nor any man of woman born without that ought within.

Who stipulates the contrary invites their fellow worm to entertain damnation, to stripe the nascent germ; bids credence service evil, and recititude disguise vehement plausibilities to lead fools by their lies.

Enter the Fools: Be silent both. In common nonsense, sense who knows without the telling nothing lacks difference.

Christopher Logue

Sportsview

Running into money problems

Open athletics is being debated today by the Amateur Athletic Association. To some that apparent contradiction is tantamount to blasphemy, and in the strictest sense they would be right, but the real subject under discussion is not some Boonesque leap into the razzmatazz of a full-time paid circus of travelling athletes but open acceptance of degrees of professionalism.

Senior Juan Antonio Samaranch, the president of the International Olympic Committee, defined the "cut-off" point between the acceptance of the high cost (in time and money) of competing at top level and out-and-out professionalism by saying that the Olympic Games should be closed "only to those who are officially recognized as professionals". Whereupon a few athletes must have asked themselves whether they were already in that category, or at least if changes in rules would isolate them from the broad base of their sport; whether they would be removed from



Arthur Gold: collapse of competition?

the heart of athletics which, in Britain at least, is amateur.

The proposal before the AAA is that athletes will be able to receive cash prizes of up to £500, appearance money and benefit from advertising. Among the opponents are Arthur Gold, president of the European Athletic Association, who, broadly speaking, foresees immense danger in diverting money to athletes and their agents. He fears the collapse of existing competition and the "infrastructure" of the coaching system.

Mr Gold also believes drug taking would increase. His opponents merely point to present day hypocrisy. Huge crowds are attracted by the cream of the world's athletes who officially receive no more than compensation for lost time.

David Shaw, secretary of the British Amateur Athletic Board, does not think that drug abuse would increase. Indeed, he says athletes would have to state their willingness to undertake random dope tests to compete within the "open circuit".

As a move made by the AAA is important to the thinking of the International Federation (IAAF) who take up the subject in September. Thus today's meeting is one of the most portentous ever held. However, as Bill Evans, the chairman of the sub-committee who looked into the problem, pointed out, the AAA cannot operate unilaterally—mainly because they could make English athletes ineligible from competition. In practice, there is an international movement towards organized "open" athletics, with the Americans to the fore.

No one might have bothered about changes of rules that date back to the time of "gentlemen" and professionals but for the influence of television and, subsequently, the arrival of the entrepreneurs.

At top level money in quite large quantities is now available, but its distribution requires careful handling. The conservative nature of most athletics administrators is expected to lead them to a compromise between the direct payment of cash to the athlete and the present system of sponsorship and television money going to the national federations who, naturally, want to retain close control over the sport.

If money is paid direct to athletes or through their agents the federations will feel

even less responsible than they are now. As it is they find themselves struggling with the personal plans of competitors and although in an individual sport it is not possible or desirable to be too dictatorial, the advent of openly rewarded athletes and professional promoters could endanger international events as well as those at the roots.

Several proposals have been offered in an attempt to safeguard those who prefer not to be involved with the professional elite. They include a means of withholding money until the athlete has retired so that he or she may still compete in the Olympic Games. Those who chose to be paid on the spot would be ineligible. But as the Olympic Games are still the height of athletic achievement and as there is no clear definition of "professional", such a plan is vague and at odds with the idea of broadening the Olympics to ensure the competition of the best athletes.

Above all, those debating the future of the sport must be sure that nothing is done to inhibit the athlete from his enjoyment and voluntary commitment. No doubt when, rather than if, open athletics comes to fruition it will be a limited business, totally dependent on sponsorship. As Mr Shaw said: "I still see 90 to 95 per cent of athletes continuing in the same way, or as near as dammit."

The objective, he says, is not to make people rich overnight but to make the sport honest. He warns that if nothing is done it will degenerate into a "shambles" with no real future.

Norman Fox

Can the Ecologists save themselves?

"We do not inherit the world from our fathers," reads the Ecology Party manifesto, "but we inherit it from the outer dome of the Ecology Party headquarters in London's Clapham Road. The rest, unfortunately, has been torn off. But it is still enough to convey something of the party's particular note of urgency, its almost fundamentalist call for reappraisal of the planet's future."

The political grouping was born as The People's Party in 1973, in the wake of the publication of a then radical document, *Blueprint for Survival*. It marked time until the 1979 general election, when it fielded 53 candidates, won its Party Political Broadcast television slot, and burst into a small but significant existence. Results reflected the formidable odds that destroy new parties: one per cent of the vote and all deposits lost. But the public took note, and started joining at the rate of 100 a week, and now there are 7,500 members and 250 local groups. Today the Ecology Party is to hold a major policy conference in its spring towards the county council elections on May 7.

On recent results—last May the party candidates averaged 5.6 per cent in the local elections, enough to have given them representation under some European systems—an electoral future begins to look just possible.

But the Ecology Party is still far from prominence. For one

thing the very nature of its constitution seems to oppose it. Ecology Party members are keeping with their commitment to decentralization fought hard against a national headquarters, particularly one based in London, and have refused to accept an extreme reluctance to shabby rooms, run by the party secretary, Paul Ekins, and an assistant (the only two paid members).

They also shun personality cults to the extent of having no leaders in principle. Only spokesmen. The fact that these are not always easily available on the telephone is admitted almost with pride.

For another, while few people today would disagree with much of the Ecology Party manifesto the notion that they could implement it continues to inspire incredulity. The modern industrial world is very probably, as they argue, disappearing under unemployment, scarce resources and rising energy costs, but the political will to change it remains weak. And this is precisely the rallying call that unites the Ecology Party: the absolutely unavoidable necessity to rethink our entire way of life.

Growth, they say, must slow down. The emphasis must now go on supporting economic policies that encourage greater self-sufficiency, low energy, low capital intensive businesses, preferably small, community based and cooperative. Devolution; decentralization; smaller farms; less

dependence on fertilizers; recycling; no further nuclear power stations.

As a party, they have no real European equivalent. The Italian Radical Party, the most successful similar grouping, with several national representatives and two European Members of Parliament, was born out of a coalition of radical policies—pro divorce and abortion, anti nuclear, highly feminist—and views ecology as "common sense, rather than as a philosophical premise."

The West German Die Grünen, the greens, grew out of a merger between environmental groups. Highly successful in their early years, they fell into fragments when uniting nationally and now serve as a cautionary tale to the Ecology Party, a warning, as Paul Ekins puts it, "that we must not let our philosophy become a single cause activists."

Meanwhile the party's natural allies, the environmental groups, historically immensely active in this country, are surprisingly wary of their would be political spokesmen.

The environmentalists tend to call the party woolly and directionless; the party replies by pointing out that to talk of saving endangered species while doing nothing to reduce a style of life at once extravagant and exploitative is hypocritical. The day of influencing select committees is over, they say. That tactic failed; nothing short of new order will now do.

Another obstacle to political growth is the recent rise of the Council for Social Democracy. The Ecology Party has profited in recent months from being the only new venture around; by conceding this place to the CSD they lose their novelty. Not that they concede it. The CSD, they say, is only posturing as new; nothing about their "amorphous, anaemic, hotchpotch of politics" is different from the consensus politics of the Wilson, Heath and Callaghan years.

The Ecology Party is not in an easy position. Outside their obvious ecological policies they have committed themselves boldly to programmes bound to attract scepticism. On defence, they call for unilateral disarmament, withdrawal from Nato; on the economy they propose a national income scheme to replace all benefits, and a resources tax.

Tomorrow and Sunday the party will be discussing agriculture, employment, industry and land tenure from the point of view of "an ecologically benign, sustainable, no waste economy". It is hard not to agree when they say that the world is growing more unequal, more disagreeable and more dangerous, and that man must "live more lightly upon the earth". But it is harder to see how, in the moment, the Ecology Party is going to bring it about.

Caroline Moorehead

مكتبة من الأصل



THE DECISION FOR THE LIBERALS

The rapid movement of the Social Democrats towards the formation of a separate party creates a great opportunity for the Liberals. It also represents a great problem, and one on which Liberal opinion is divided. The opportunity is obvious enough. An electoral alliance between the Liberals and the Social Democrats, picking as far as possible the most suitable seats for each to fight, would give the Liberals their best chance since the 1920s of making a breakthrough in a general election. Mr Foot says that the Social Democrats "will become lonely figures in the political wilderness". He was no doubt referring to the well-known text from St Matthew: "the voice of one crying in the wilderness. Prepare ye the way of the Lord".

The public opinion polls, including the most recent Gallup poll, suggest that such an alliance would win an early general election, probably with an overall majority. Opinion polls may change and are an unreliable guide to the future three years ahead, but these opinion polls are far more favourable than even the best that the Liberals have enjoyed at their height. In particular, a Liberal/Social Democrat alliance would enjoy a credibility which the Liberals have not been able to achieve on their own, partly because the Social Democrats have the advantage of substantial experience in Government.

If the Liberals and the Social Democrats won a substantial number of seats, even if they only came third in the election, they would probably be able to exchange their support for an agreement to reform the electoral system. Dr David Owen committed the Social Democrats to electoral reform in his speech yesterday. That would be a powerful central theme for an alliance, and the majority of voters would support it.

The anxieties of the Liberals are of two kinds. They have a very reasonable party anxiety. The Liberal Party's position on its own may not be a strong one, but it is the centre party of British politics. The creation of another party in the centre does raise the threat of competition for the same votes. However, the Social Democrats do exist. If there is no alliance and Social Democrats and Liberals fight each other in every constituency,

there is no reason to suppose that the Liberals will come off best. Again, one must be cautious about public opinion polls, but the polls seem to show that the Social Democrats already have significantly more support than the Liberals; they could therefore be expected to run ahead of the Liberals in most constituencies if there were a four-party race. Even at this early stage, the Liberals, supposing they put their party interest first, do not have it in their power to strangle the Social Democrats at birth.

More worrying is the problem raised by differences in political philosophy and political policy. Many Liberals feel that their political beliefs are not the same as those of most Social Democrats, and that they would therefore be allowing their own beliefs to be swamped if they agreed to an effective alliance. The situation is, however, a complex one. As Mr David Hughes, a well-known Liberal candidate, points out in his pamphlet published today, the Social Democrats are not all of a piece. He distinguishes, between what might be termed Gaitskillite Social Democrats and those who are essentially rather conservative in their outlook and are distressed by the way that the Labour Party is going.

Equally, however, the Liberals are not all of a piece. The Liberalism of Mr Cyril Smith and that of Mr Jo Grimond could hardly be further apart. Some Liberals still have a real attachment to nineteenth century economic Liberalism which is now more commonly the ideology of the Conservative right. Most Liberals retain a classical Liberal view, in line with that of John Stuart Mill, towards issues of personal liberty, but have a neo-Keynesian and interventionist approach to economic and industrial affairs.

The question that has to be asked is whether there is a reasonable fit between the range of opinions in the Liberal Party and the range of opinions in the Social Democrat Party that is forming. One only has to inspect the leadership to see that such a fit does exist. There is indeed an overlap between the views of Mr Roy Jenkins and Mr David Steel. If one did not know which party each man supported, one might well think that Mr Steel was a Social Democrat and Mr Jenkins a rather Asquithian Liberal.

If one looks at the issues of

policy, there is little of substance which divides most Liberals from most Social Democrats, though there are, of course, individual issues which would provoke intense debate inside both parties. Both parties accept substantial Government intervention, put a high priority on social welfare expenditure, support the maintenance of a mixed economy with a major private sector, and believe in a democratic, open and libertarian approach to the problems of Government.

The most difficult question to settle might well be that of the relationship with the trade unions. The Social Democrats, as a party of the left, are anxious to cultivate close relations with the trade unions, while avoiding the role of a trade union party. Some Liberals at least believe that trade unions should accept a legal framework such as was advocated by the late Sir Andrew Shonfield—surely himself a potential Social Democrat—in the Minority Report of the Donovan Commission. However, a Liberal and Social Democrat government would at least be able to approach the question of trade union reform knowing that a reform once carried out would not be subject to repeal. The fact that Conservative legislation is always subject to eventual repeal has done much to make it ineffective.

The issue of electoral reform is paramount. Without a Liberal and Social Democratic alliance, it is unlikely that the Liberals can gain electoral reform. From the point of view of the Liberal Party, their voice would continue to be automatically discounted by an unjust electoral system. From the national point of view, our unbalanced electoral system exposes us to the risk of minority governments, with majorities in the House of Commons, which do not represent the consensus of the national will. This has done considerable harm to Britain in the past and perhaps in the present; it could do irreparable harm if a minority Marxist government were to be elected at some stage in the future. The alliance would fight on two great issues: the reform of the electoral system and the politics of agreement against the politics of division. So discredited are the two major parties at present, that such an appeal would—and probably in fact will—be extremely powerful.

The majority of trade unionists see serious reasons why such a did the founding fathers of the Labour Party—as merely reflecting the divisions within our society. The Marxists maintain that such a view and role would make it impossible for the trade unions to reform our society and, therefore, the theory of Marxism (namely a classless society) must be introduced extraneously by a theoretical and intellectual elite. No doubt Ken Gill includes himself in this category. His Marxist so-called class analysis of the role of the trade unions is in sharp contrast with historical reality.

It is the Gang of Gill's view that in the end will relegate trade unions to the role of transmission belts for the decisions of the oligarchical capitalist state and their workers' members into its servants. This reality has been long understood by the majority of the ordinary members of the British Labour movement whose vigilance up to now has avoided the necessity of the re-birth of the trade union movement currently taking place in Poland.

Yours faithfully,
FRANK CHAPPEL,
Hayes Court,
West Common Road, Bromley.
February 27.

Origins of the Labour Party

From the General Secretary of the Electrical, Electronic, Telecommunications and Plumbing Union
Sir, In your issue of February 18, under the title "Labour and the Leadership", Red Herring, Ken Gill who has presumably more knowledge of sturgeon and other fish angled in muddy Russian waters than our native herring—red or otherwise—has produced a potpourri of fiction, pliable fact and half-baked ideological claptrap. I do however understand his apprehensions about ballot votes and our "one person one vote" politics for him it is the fear of the unknown.

To suggest that the Labour Party was the product solely of the trade unions betrays a woeful ignorance of the history of working men's political aspirations historically and the variety of instruments utilized to achieve their objectives throughout centuries of endeavour in Britain. The Levellers, Chartists and others, each with their own agenda in terms of its ideological origins and in espousing the ideas of the need for specific representation.

Present at its formation in 1900 were the representatives of 23,000 members of socialist societies and it is worth noting that amongst the representatives of 500,000 trade unionists, the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers, Technical, Administrative & Supervisory Staffs, the Association of Engineering and Shipbuilding Draughtsmen, were absent. Indeed, they did not affiliate until 1944 and only then after a series of political tricks which could hardly have been said to have the support of the membership of that organization.

Whatever role the unions may claim to have played in the formation of the Labour Party, in no sense can they claim to have proprietary rights in determining its programme and its policies in the contemporary political situation. Few would deny the rights of the trade union movement to be allowed a strong influence on any of these considerations but most would deny the right of the Communists like Ken Gill to act as custodian of trade union rights in the matter, whatever they may be.

For the essence of the objection to trade union block voting, whatever may be its historic rights or wrongs, is that trade union leaders (who have the responsibility for doing what the rank and file will be cast) rarely represent their members. Numerous public opinion polls and countless consultations with trade union members confirm that view.

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Yours faithfully,
FRANK CHAPPEL,
Hayes Court,
West Common Road, Bromley.
February 27.

Nationality proposals

From Miss Jenni Atkinson
Sir, So much Powell does not believe is fully entitled to make his own decisions as to his own nationality for their children because they do not fight for their country (report, February 18). Yet it is the senior men within the armed forces who make the decisions which bar women from combat roles.

I doubt if the women of World War 2—blitzed, rationed, bereaved and many in uniform—would regard themselves as not having fought for their country. There is more to defending one's country than pulling a trigger which, incidentally, many men don't do. Mr Powell said: "... the functions of the two sexes are different. One is to bear arms. The other to sustain, preserve and care for life". Why, oh why, should the latter function be unworthy of the right to transmit British nationality?

Yours faithfully,
JENNI ATKINSON,
56 Stanhope Road,
Reading,
Berkshire.
February 19

Economic priorities

From Mr John Bruce-Gardyne, MP for Knutsford (Conservative)
Sir, Your Parliamentary Correspondent's "dicker collector" was my own assessment of the tensile quality of monetarism on the Government backbenches (February 27). But I think I must point out that it was "not to be heard pleading with the Government to stand firm" at Chancellor's Question Time yesterday, this was because I was not called to do so.

Had my own question to the Chancellor about exchange rate policy been reached I would have sought to suggest that the Government can have an exchange rate policy, or a counter-inflation policy, but they cannot have both at the same time. For the rest I find myself wholly in agreement with the views expressed in your correspondence columns (February 27) by my colleague Mr Peter Roderer, MP.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN BRUCE-GARDYNE,
House of Commons.
February 27.

Violence on the terraces

From Mr Chris Wright
Sir, Mr G. Kelly (letters, February 24) seems, as most of the people he speaks on behalf of, to live in a totally different world from someone like myself, who has stood on terraces from Mexico to Harlepool, and Poland to Swansea.

As usual the only answer he can give to the problem is more seats, ban drink. These have been tried and failed; indeed one of the worst riots was by Leeds supporters in Paris when they were all seated. British football's recent introduction of "dry trains" is also a pathetic inconvenience to most people. I recently travelled to Manchester on such a train only to see 15-year-olds pour off the train into a supermarket to be served bottles of vodka by a 16-year-old sales assistant.

The Football League should first put its own house in order. Make contracts stick, stop intimidation on the pitch, stop players draining the game of every drop of cash. I work in the printing trade. In 1970 I was paid £40 per week and most Crystal Palace players got £65-70 per week. I now get £170 per week but Palace players get up to £750 and I produce more and they rely to jest! Is it not time to bring the football back to its roots? Remember only one team can win the league but the other 51 can win the entertainment back as well.

Bring down the barriers at grounds. Bring in strong policing backed with stiff court sentences and clubs bringing injunctions against offenders. The "muds and

Labour and the centre

From Lady Burton of Coventry
Sir, The replies sent by Mr Ron Hayward and Mr Alex Kitson, respectively general secretary and chairman of the Labour Party (report, February 17), to Mrs Shirley Williams dismayed me and I imagine many more. Whether or not one agrees with Shirley Williams—and I do—such taunts and comments, indeed such an attitude towards the Labour Party, are a service to the Labour Party. If more people had shown the courage and determination, and had exhibited integrity in the way she has, we should be a better Party today.

I have always believed, and have said many times, that the best way to try to change the direction in a party was by staying in and making your voice heard. Well, I have tried: in private Party meetings and on the floor of the House. My colleagues have always given me a good and a fair hearing. They are in no doubt as to my attitude; otherwise I should not be writing this letter.

But on Monday January 26 I joined the Council for Social Democracy. Why? Because I believe that the Party has changed—fundamentally. And the Wembley Conference put this beyond doubt. In any political party I realise that there must be some policy points unacceptable to all members. But deep down in the Party to which I have belonged for 36 years there is an emerging undercurrent to which I can no longer subscribe.

The Council for Social Democracy "won" the next election but I believe it does offer hope; and with it one can accomplish a great deal.

Yours faithfully,
LADY BURTON OF COVENTRY,
House of Lords, SW1.
February 21.

Guiding industry's future

From Mr D. E. Amory
Sir, Up to now the industrial policy of the Government has been to have no policy beyond a belief in the efficiency of the market. But even if the Government attempts radically to improve the workings of the market, by wholesale denationalization and trade union reform, the economy would still be quite unlike the Industrial Revolution of the nineteenth century.

The real world is one of monopoly, wage bargaining, giant corporations, foreign subsidies, and market distortions of every kind. Moreover the modern state will continue to exert a dominating influence over the economy through ownership, taxation, public purchasing, grants and regional policy.

Instead of coordinating these into a strategic policy the Government is now lurching from one ad hoc funding decision to another. This is immensely damaging to the Government's reputation and bitterly resented by those who see public largesse still being dispensed at ministerial discretion but without any guiding principle.

Britain needs a rapid and sustained shift of resources from senile industries to the infant technologies that will create the future jobs. This is emphatically not a question of more Government spending. It is instead a question of coordinating existing activities and funding in pursuit of industrial goals evolved within the private sector.

To leave our industrial future to market forces while at the same time spending billions of pounds in short-term relief is a paradox that can only amuse our competitors.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID E. AMORY,
12 Addison Gardens, W14.
February 26.

Getting BR shipshape

From Mr Michael Holt
Sir, How I agree with the content and sentiment displayed in the letter from Captain J. A. R. Swainson (February 27). Slovenly dress must lead to slovenly discipline and therefore a real risk to safety standards.

Earlier this month I wrote to the Divisional Manager of British Rail Eastern Region at Liverpool Street pointing out the regular deficiency of a particular train in the following terms: "The inefficiency of this train is in fact epitomised by the scruffy appearance of the travelling staff on the train. This morning the 'dicker collector' was dressed in flabby jeans, a disgusting stained British Railways jacket, unkempt hair and no hat. I told him that I would show my ticket to an inspector who was properly dressed. His only comment was 'please yourself'. I must inform you that I and many others will refuse to show our tickets to this particular individual—until he appears in a proper uniform."

If all regular travellers on British Rail took a similar stance we would undoubtedly achieve a vastly improved railway staff who would improve overnight.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,
MICHAEL HOLT,
West Bergholt Lodge,
Calchester,
Essex.
February 27.

Letters to the Editor

From Mr Chris Wright
Sir, Mr G. Kelly (letters, February 24) seems, as most of the people he speaks on behalf of, to live in a totally different world from someone like myself, who has stood on terraces from Mexico to Harlepool, and Poland to Swansea.

As usual the only answer he can give to the problem is more seats, ban drink. These have been tried and failed; indeed one of the worst riots was by Leeds supporters in Paris when they were all seated. British football's recent introduction of "dry trains" is also a pathetic inconvenience to most people. I recently travelled to Manchester on such a train only to see 15-year-olds pour off the train into a supermarket to be served bottles of vodka by a 16-year-old sales assistant.

The Football League should first put its own house in order. Make contracts stick, stop intimidation on the pitch, stop players draining the game of every drop of cash. I work in the printing trade. In 1970 I was paid £40 per week and most Crystal Palace players got £65-70 per week. I now get £170 per week but Palace players get up to £750 and I produce more and they rely to jest! Is it not time to bring the football back to its roots? Remember only one team can win the league but the other 51 can win the entertainment back as well.

Bring down the barriers at grounds. Bring in strong policing backed with stiff court sentences and clubs bringing injunctions against offenders. The "muds and

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MICHAEL HOLT,
West Bergholt Lodge,
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Sad echo of a Cavalier

From Lady Antonia Pinter
Sir, In the general jolly discussion about Lady Diana Spencer's ancestry, let it not be forgotten that she is descended from Edmund Waller's Sacharissa—Dorothy Sidney, Countess of Sunderland. Waller wrote of his unrequited love:
Go, lovely Rose!
Tell her that wastes her time and me,
That now she knows,
When I resemble her to thee,
How sweet and fair she seems to be.
It is pleasant to think that the prince has met with a happier fate than the poet.
Yours faithfully,
ANTONIA PINTER,
52 Campden Hill Square, W8.
February 25.

From Mr J. L. Hogg
Sir, I was surprised to read on the front page of today's issue (February 25) that Lady Diana Spencer was descended on the right side of the blanket from Charles II. That would surely give her a better title to the Throne than the Prince of Wales. Seemingly there was no nod to the Hanoverians or Jacobites. All this scours of treason rather than reason.
I am, Sir, your obedient servant,
J. L. HOGG,
6 Carad Court,
Cleeve Road,
Goring-on-Thames,
Reading, RG8 2JH.
Berkshire.
February 25.

Missing surveys

From Professor M. W. Barley
Sir, Several correspondents, and now your Planning Reporter (February 21: "Places in peril") have drawn attention to one effect or another of current economies and of planning and fiscal policies. I should like to make points that have not been expressed but which are of some importance.

As one who wishes to read historical buildings as documents about the past, I search in vain—in books and in the library of the National Monuments Record—for measured surveys of houses such as the one at Hall (illustrated in John Young's article). It is one of hundreds of such houses known at best only from a few photographs. Only a measured survey will reveal its full history: whether for instance it incorporates part of an older house and how far it was altered by later owners.

The National Trust, rightly or wrongly, does not feel obliged to commission surveys of its properties; there is, for example, no recent survey of Sudbury Hall, Derbyshire, and the guide-book gives the visitor to him to minor but significant changes such as the disappearance of the chapel, Burley on the Hill (also near Oakham) was built about 1700 by an Earl of Northampton; we know the circumstances of its building and the cost, but it is represented in print only by a sketch plan without a scale.

The truth is that we know more about farmhouses and cottages—thanks to the Royal Commission and to amateur archaeologists such as the Yorkshire group which received a Chronology in December—than we do about manor houses, personage houses and all those of superior status.

More attention to collecting and compiling surveys of country houses would, I think, clear up light on aspects of social history and on the local communities which supported them. It would also provide a sounder basis for judgments about problems of preservation.

Yours faithfully,
M. W. BARLEY,
10 Park Road,
Chilwell,
Nottingham.
February 22.

Care of ancient buildings

From Mrs Vivienne Bridges
Sir, Mr Trevor Jukes in his letter in today's issue (February 26) of The Times asks on what evidence Lord Mersey bases his statement that "ivy destroys masonry" and quotes Mr W. J. Bean and the Royal Horticultural Society's Dictionary of Gardening, as well as his own experience of ivy-clad houses, to refute this assertion.

With all due deference to these various authorities, as the owner of an old stone-built and tile-hung house my experience entirely confirms Lord Mersey's opinion. A large ivy on this house had put forth suckers strong enough to root firmly in the mortar which, over the years, had crumbled away leaving holes large enough for a small army of rats to "effect an entry"—which they did—while ivy tendrils, having dislodged the hung tiles, made an ornamental but very unwelcome appearance indoors. Only the removal of this precarious plant for essential repointing and other repairs revealed the extraordinary extent of the damage.

Yours faithfully,
VIVIENNE BRIDGES,
3 The Five Houses,
Winchelsea,
Sussex.
February 26.

Wizards that were

From Group Captain H. W. Pearson-Rogers
Sir, Mr Philip Howard (February 23) speculates with his usual charm and erudition on the first use of wizard being used in 1925-30—the time of the Schneider Cup victories. In 1931 my son was christened Merlin, suggested by the late Air Marshal Sir Richard Atcherley, my great friend and best man, because Merlin was a wizard.

I suggest that Oriel caught it from the RAF. Some historian however may well prove that the Black Prince was heard to say "Wizard show" after Poitiers.

Yours faithfully,
H. W. PEARSON-ROGERS,
Toscock,
Bury St Edmunds,
Suffolk.
February 24.

THE COMPLEX CASE OF EL SALVADOR

The decision of the Reagan Administration to make a stand over the question of El Salvador bears signs of haste, and does not seem to have been carefully thought through. The calculation in the White House seems to have been that since the West is engaged in a global struggle against the forces of Marxism-Leninism, an example should be provided in the early days of the new administration of the way in which the tide of Communism can be contained.

El Salvador presents a classic case of Communist-supported subversion, on the very doorstep of the United States. The American solution is to increase financial and military support to the government forces, in an effort to quash the growing rebellion by left wing guerrillas armed by the Soviet Union and its allies, by way of Cuba and Nicaragua.

This is to apply a simple remedy to an extremely complex situation. El Salvador is one of the tiniest countries in the Americas, with a population of no more than five million, and has been politically unsettled for centuries. In modern times it has been ruled by right wing military juntas of a particularly oppressive and unpleasant kind. But two years ago, a more enlightened regime came to power. President José Napoleon Duarte has tried to introduce economic and social reforms, the most important being land reform. El Salvador is an overwhelmingly agricultural state, and President Duarte has gone some way toward satisfying the demands of the peasantry, by introducing

farming co-operatives, and other measures.

These reforms have alarmed entrenched landowning interests, while falling far short of the revolutionary measures advocated by those on the extreme left, with the result that a largely moderate and well-intentioned Government has found itself caught in the crossfire of growing violence between left and right. It has been unable to rely on the Army, which tends to sympathize or even collude with right wing terrorists.

The view of the European partners in the Western Alliance has been that the troubles of El Salvador are essentially indigenous. The Americans are right to emphasize the culpability of the Soviet Union and Cuba in aiding the terrorists of the left. The evidence presented by the American State Department on this question shows, that since last August over 600 tons of sophisticated weaponry has found its way to left wing guerrillas in El Salvador from Communist sources.

On the other hand, it is scarcely surprising that the Americans should have "caught the Communists with their hand in the cookie jar", as President Reagan's Press Secretary put it. The Russians have traditionally exploited genuine political and social unrest all over the world for their own purposes, and will no doubt continue to do so. The Europeans can certainly support American efforts to stop Communist arms supplies, and will join the Americans in condemning gross Soviet interference in what is unquestionably the

American sphere of influence. But they begin from the premise that if there were no injustice and oppression in El Salvador in the first place, the Communists would have no grievances on which to feed. The Army and the right wing forces, at least, as much to blame for anarchy and violence as the left.

As Mrs Thatcher pointed out in Washington, it is for the people of El Salvador to solve their own problems. The West Germans have tried (so far, unsuccessfully) to arrange an accommodation between President Duarte and opposition moderate socialists. The tendency in Washington is to regard all those of left wing persuasion in El Salvador as tarred with the Communist brush. In fact, however, opposition socialists can exert a moderating influence on the left wing guerrillas (many of whom in any case adhere to an agrarian socialism quite different from the Soviet model), and in concert with President Duarte would present a powerful reforming force.

The Reagan Administration could do worse than to take up this initiative. It is encouraging that America has consulted its allies on this issue, to the extent of sending the Assistant Secretary of State, Mr Lawrence Bagelburger, to European capitals to explain Washington's point of view. But alliance politics is a two way process. El Salvador might yet provide a test case not only of Mr Reagan's ability to contain Communism, but also of his willingness to share European perceptions of conflicts in which Western interests are at risk.

I suggest that the carriage of duty-free drink is not the major problem. The overriding problem is the flammability of aircraft fuel. If we can reduce this, many of the survivability problems will diminish and others will disappear.

In fact significant progress has been made in finding a way of reducing the flammability of aircraft fuel, and that is by using an anti-misting additive. This important development has received very little attention in the media and got no more than a cursory reference in this television programme.

Originating from work done by ICI and the Royal Aircraft Establishment, this development is now the subject of concentrated Anglo-American research. Certainly this development is seen by both British and United States safety authorities as potentially the most effective way of reducing post-crash fires and the consequent loss of lives.

Meanwhile, of course, the safety authorities must continue with their primary task which is to prevent aircraft accidents from happening.

Yours faithfully,
JOY WORTHING, Group Director
Safety Services,
Civil Aviation Authority,
CAA House,
45-59 Kingsway, WC2.

The Atlantic debate

From Mr Lionel Bloch
Sir, May I question some of the basic assumptions of your leader on the Atlantic debate (February 23)? You quote with approval the German politician who pointed out that the alliance could only be a partnership if the Americans would acknowledge "European political realities" as much as Europeans would recognize American ones.

The symmetry is spurious. In fact, Western Europe, through its military dependence on the United States, has to move a great deal nearer to the American position if the alliance is to remain effective.

If the Germans are worried about their voters, this is only because their politicians have failed these past few years to alert them to the true implications of Soviet rearmament. One cannot mesmerize public opinion by constantly extolling the virtues of détente, and then complain that it does not support rearmament.

You also endorse Mr Geoffrey Pattie's statement that "western countries must avoid falling into the trap which the Russians have fallen into of reverting to imperialist attitudes and practices in relations towards the developing world".

Aircraft fire hazards

From Mr Roy Worthing
Sir, Mrs Susanna Hall (February 26) draws attention to survivability problems in aircraft crashes, which were the subject of a recent television programme, and recommends that duty-free drink should be banned from flights.

Cricket

England and Jackman not first to meet difficulties in Guyana

from John Woodcock
Cricket Correspondent
Georgetown, Feb 27

The England cricketers flew to Guyana this afternoon a week ahead of time, leaving behind them a disappointed community and a group of players who were to have started tomorrow. The England team, which was to have started tomorrow, is not expected to play in Guyana, though, if the tour is to continue, something will certainly be arranged before then.

Guyana has more of a history than any of the other Caribbean countries of barring teams and individual players. In the mid-1970s, for example, the Barbados team was withdrawn from a tour to Guyana because of its players' behaviour. The Guyanese Government refused to admit them, Barbados was not allowed to play, and Guyana was not allowed to play.

For a variety of reasons the England party were keen to leave Guyana as soon as possible. For this reason, the England party were keen to leave Guyana as soon as possible. For this reason, the England party were keen to leave Guyana as soon as possible.

Another reason for wanting to get away is to play some more cricket. It is not going to be possible to play in Guyana, and the England party were keen to leave Guyana as soon as possible.

The Guyanese are starved of cricket; they also love the game. Several thousand people turned up at the police ground on Wednesday just to watch England play a practice match among themselves.

Dusadina, Feb 27.—The spinners, Doshi and Yadav, are in the middle of the first Test match. The England party were keen to leave Guyana as soon as possible.

Continuing our series on classic tests with the Oxford not-so-greats. Shed a tear for the Crocodiles. One of the qualities of cricket is its usual, or fun, sides. They are not incapable of taking a game seriously, but their purpose is to enjoy it, irrespective of the result.

The genesis of the Crocodiles was a more long-standing institution, Queen's College (Oxford) Imperial Quondams. The Quondams were founded in the years after the war. The Quondams, who played the villages around Oxford, consisted mostly of men in their final year, who could not give time to the serious business of the college first XI, and of those not good enough even for the second XI but who could not resist the game.

Sometimes an aging dog might play, sometimes a man who had scarcely played cricket but had social merits. It meant that we usually had three or four pretty good cricketers, the rest being cheerful rabbits.

The Quondams had been founded, as my memory goes, in the early 1930s. The first president was D. G. Bradman who, when invited, wrote a polite letter of acceptance. Later it was proposed for reasons too obscure, that Emperor Hirohito should be made president.

any government to interfere with the selection of the England team or to impose any restrictions on their entry to any country involved in the tour. The remainder of the tour is the responsibility of the tour organisers. The tour organisers are the Indian Cricket Board, who have been reorganising, though not until the party arrives in Barbados, will any further cricketing decisions be made.

to make today's evacuation possible. The tour organisers are the Indian Cricket Board, who have been reorganising, though not until the party arrives in Barbados, will any further cricketing decisions be made.

The last time an England cricket team were part of such an expedition was in 1968-69. They left Karachi for London at 12 hours notice, with the last match half finished. Though the tour was cancelled, South Africa were involved then too, England having gone to Pakistan only because their tour of South Africa had to be cancelled.

Rose in the dark: Brian Rose, the Somerset captain and England batsman, who had to return from the West Indies because of a bad leg, knew nothing of the Jackman affair until he read a newspaper at Heathrow Airport.

Willis optimistic: The Warwickshire captain, Bob Willis, who had an operation to remove a piece of cartilage from his left knee on Thursday, hopes to be fit to report for training with the rest of the players on March 31.

Willis's wife, Julie, added: "It was only a minor operation and not like having a cartilage out. The operation was a little hole and pulled out the offending part."

Willis, who had a cartilage operation on his right knee in 1975, returned from England last weekend. Willis's wife, Julie, added: "It was only a minor operation and not like having a cartilage out. The operation was a little hole and pulled out the offending part."

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Football

Leeds try to buy two Italians for £1.2m

Leeds United have bid £1.2 million for two Italian internationalists, Marco Tardelli, 26, a midfielder player with Juventus, and a 25-year-old striker, who has scored 18 goals in 43 international matches. The Leeds manager, Allan Clarke, and his deputy, Martin Wilkinson, started negotiations for the pair when they visited Rome on Wednesday to watch the Italian national team play.

Mr Wilkinson said the two players were being sought through an agent and we are hoping to have some news over the weekend. The agent's name is not being disclosed but he is described by Leeds as "a man who has the respect of Italian football clubs."

The maximum transfer fee for European players is pegged at £500,000. Mr Wilkinson added: "Players like Tardelli are a tremendous ball winner in midfield and a goal-scoring threat. Both are world class players."

It is being put about that we can not afford top quality players. The agent's name is not being disclosed but he is described by Leeds as "a man who has the respect of Italian football clubs."

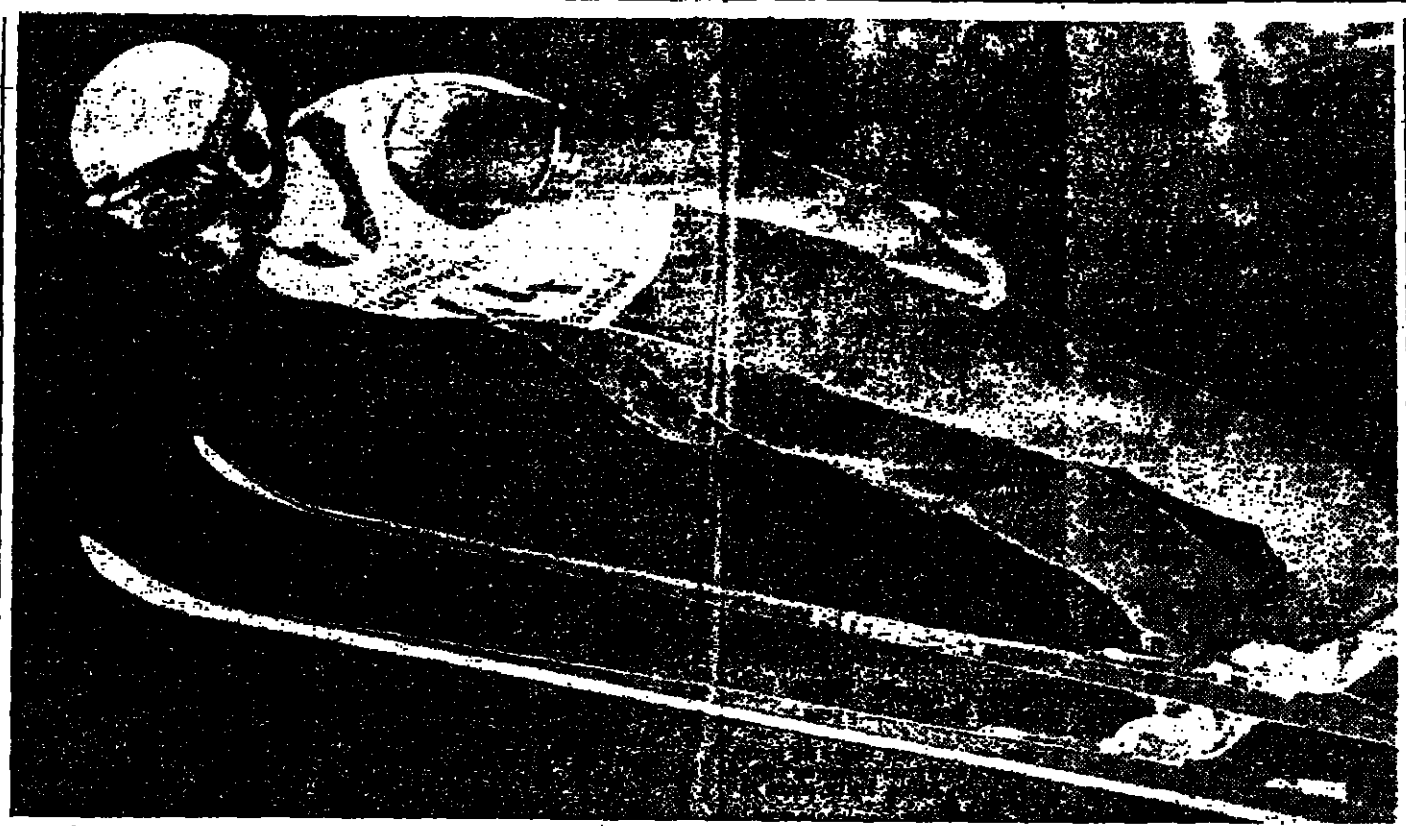
One never definitely not coming to England following the break-down of his move to Leicester is John Cruick, who is, however, expected to play for the Netherlands against France in the World Cup Group 2 qualifying match on March 25 in Rotterdam.

Cruick said that he and Rylands had the same ideas on reorganising the Dutch team, which he had not played for since October 1977.

Cruick also explained that he had decided against joining Leicester because there were fewer problems with language and climate in Valencia. He would have fewer quarantine problems with his dog in Spain, he added.

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Flying through the air with the greatest of ease on skis: Armin Kogler, of Austria, setting a world record of 180 metres in the ski flying championship at Oberstdorf.

Norwich ask O'Neill to provide their security

By Norman Fox
Football Correspondent

After today 10 league matches will remain for the four teams most anxious to achieve security in the first division. Crystal Palace, after a traumatic season, have one foot in the second division and in a match of cup final proportions, Norwich City today need to beat another of the threatened clubs, Brighton, at Carrow Road, or themselves be left five points adrift of their rivals south coast rivals.

The situation at the bottom is as follows: Brighton P. W D L F A Pts 31 9 5 17 37 53 23 Leicester C. 31 9 2 20 23 48 20 Norwich C. 31 7 6 18 32 60 20 Crystal P. 31 5 5 21 37 64 15

Ken Brown, Norwich manager, who was left with the responsibility of keeping his club afloat when John Bond joined Manchester City, admitted yesterday that he was in a "very difficult" position.

The approaching transfer deadline has brought some last minute attempts to avoid relegation through the cheque book, with Norwich being successful in their efforts to purchase O'Neill of Nottingham Forest, but Leicester City were left feeling rather silly by the predictable refusal of the Dutch voyager, Cruick, to join them for £5,000 a game.

Chiefly at fault, and he will need to make any further impression on his international career. Twice in a six-minute free-kick spell he has changed a shot from outside the box to inside the box, and then by driving the ball over Doncaster's goal he has had a clear sight of goal.

With an apparent respect for Southend's home record, Doncaster adopted a policy of weight in numbers to form a protective wall around their goal, and the plan was to keep their corner kicks before the interval. The closest Southend came to scoring was in the sixteenth minute when Moody, playing the first play in the half, was fouled by a broken ankle, headed on a corner, but Harle was sent flying away from Doncaster's goal.

Harle's perfect positioning was some compensation for his error of judgement in the ninth minute. For reasons best known to him, he changed a shot from outside the box to inside the box, and then by driving the ball over Doncaster's goal he has had a clear sight of goal.

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Football Correspondent

After today 10 league matches will remain for the four teams most anxious to achieve security in the first division. Crystal Palace, after a traumatic season, have one foot in the second division and in a match of cup final proportions, Norwich City today need to beat another of the threatened clubs, Brighton, at Carrow Road, or themselves be left five points adrift of their rivals south coast rivals.

The situation at the bottom is as follows: Brighton P. W D L F A Pts 31 9 5 17 37 53 23 Leicester C. 31 9 2 20 23 48 20 Norwich C. 31 7 6 18 32 60 20 Crystal P. 31 5 5 21 37 64 15

Ken Brown, Norwich manager, who was left with the responsibility of keeping his club afloat when John Bond joined Manchester City, admitted yesterday that he was in a "very difficult" position.

The approaching transfer deadline has brought some last minute attempts to avoid relegation through the cheque book, with Norwich being successful in their efforts to purchase O'Neill of Nottingham Forest, but Leicester City were left feeling rather silly by the predictable refusal of the Dutch voyager, Cruick, to join them for £5,000 a game.

Chiefly at fault, and he will need to make any further impression on his international career. Twice in a six-minute free-kick spell he has changed a shot from outside the box to inside the box, and then by driving the ball over Doncaster's goal he has had a clear sight of goal.

With an apparent respect for Southend's home record, Doncaster adopted a policy of weight in numbers to form a protective wall around their goal, and the plan was to keep their corner kicks before the interval. The closest Southend came to scoring was in the sixteenth minute when Moody, playing the first play in the half, was fouled by a broken ankle, headed on a corner, but Harle was sent flying away from Doncaster's goal.

Harle's perfect positioning was some compensation for his error of judgement in the ninth minute. For reasons best known to him, he changed a shot from outside the box to inside the box, and then by driving the ball over Doncaster's goal he has had a clear sight of goal.

Hockey

Reinforced England can avenge defeat

By Sydney Friskin

Probably the most popular event in a mixed bag of weekend hockey activity is the four nations indoor tournament, sponsored by Rank Xerox, at Crystal Palace today, starting at 9 am with a match between Australia and England to be followed at 9.50 by the game between Denmark and Scotland.

The highlight of this round-robin event should be the match between England and Scotland at 2 pm. Scotland are the holders of the home countries indoor championship and England are keen to avenge their defeat at Carrow Road on January 10. England, captained by Clarke, of Tulse Hill, are reinforced by Vernon, Hurst (goalkeeper) and Leman, who have been playing outdoors for England in Karachi, were not available for Cardiff.

The Scottish side, led by McLean, looks strong with Thomson, Hay, Coventry and Thorne, and are the holders of the home countries indoor championship. Those comparatively new, are Cuthill, Sharp, Callaghan and Dargo, who opened the way to the indoor event rather than play for Civil Service outdoors against the RAF in London.

Outdoors, the Welsh squad have been invited by London Indians to play two matches tomorrow at Surbiton, starting at 11.0 and 3.0. The Welsh, who will play as the Dragons, will soon be on their way to Kuala Lumpur for the Commonwealth Cup tournament, which starts on March 29.

Wales are bringing a well balanced squad which includes some of the best players in the country. Those comparatively new, are Cuthill, Sharp, Callaghan and Dargo, who opened the way to the indoor event rather than play for Civil Service outdoors against the RAF in London.

London Indians will have a choice between Ian Taylor, of England and Wales, and a local player, Spencer, as goalkeepers. They are among a group of 22 led by Khehar, of Slough, Buckinghamshire, and England, who will have a chance to play for the national team. Saini, Lal and Kuller to conjure with.

On top of all this is a training weekend at Bisham Abbey National Sports Centre for the England under-21 squad, preparing for the junior European championship at Bisham (September 24 to 27). They will play two matches tomorrow.

Los Angeles will accommodate 10,000 athletes. The International Olympic Committee president, Juan Antonio Samaranch, said today that Los Angeles will probably be able to accommodate 10,000 athletes in two Olympic villages.

A women's marathon will be added to the Games. The longest women's marathon ever in past Olympic history, 1500 metres, the marathon will be a separate event run along the same course as the men's.

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THE TIMES

BUSINESS NEWS

Personal
Investment and
finance,
pages 20 and 21

Stock markets

FT Index 506.6, up 8.8
FT Gilts 89.12, down 0.14

Sterling

\$2.2050, down 210 points
Index 98.9, down 0.4

Dollar

Index 100.6, up 0.7
DM2.1305, up 160 points

Gold

\$490.50, down 51

Money

3 mth sterling 12 1/4-12 1/2
3 mth Euro-S 16 1/4-16 1/2
6 mth Euro-S 16 1/2-16 3/4

IN BRIEF

Highest V German ade deficit nce war

West Germany posted the most monthly trade deficit in its post-war history in January with imports exceeding exports by Deutsche Marks 11.96bn and the current account deficit expanding to DM5,000m from DM4,000m in December. The deficit was the largest since the end of the Second World War, when it peaked at DM12.5bn in January 1947. The deficit was caused by a combination of factors, including a sharp rise in imports of raw materials and semi-finished goods, and a decline in exports of manufactured goods. The deficit was also a result of the depreciation of the Deutschmark against the US dollar, which made German exports more expensive and imports cheaper.

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Production of the new Escort resumed at the Ford factory at Halewood, Merseyside after two days of strikes, pensions and layoffs which cost the company £2m.

AMF is holding talks to sell Leyland-Davidson, the last American motorcycle manufacturer, cause of poorer than expected performance.

The first British trade mission visit to Greece since its entry to the EEC will leave Manchester on March 15. The delegation has been organized by the Manchester Chamber of Commerce.

American trade with Russia edged by 56 per cent last year from 1979. Turnover between the two countries was \$960m (£809m) against \$80m (£2,036m).

The Dow Jones industrial average closed 7.77 points up at 9,745.8. The S&P 500 was 23.28. The £ was 0.554901.

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EEC steelmakers ordered to make further output cuts of up to 25 pc

From Michael Hornsby
Brussels, Feb 27

Community steel companies were ordered today by the European Commission to make a further sharp cutback in production in the second quarter in a move to shore up prices and restore profitability.

The cuts range between 18 and 25 per cent for the four main categories of rolled products compared to the level of output achieved in the final quarter of 1979, when total crude steel production was 35.7 million tonnes.

These new quotas, which go into effect on April 1, represent the third successive lowering of the compulsory limits imposed by the European Commission under the emergency powers of article 58 of the European Coal and Steel Community Treaty.

The measures came into force on October 1 last year with the approval of the EEC member states. Many of them had grown alarmed at the effects on the steel industry of savage price-cutting by companies fighting to retain shares of a shrinking market.

On June 30 the article 58 power will expire unless renewed, but Viscount Eusebio Davignon the EEC Commissioner for Industries has said that he will not propose an extension. Instead, he will urge member states and the industry to observe voluntary restraint and embark on a coordinated reduction of capacity.

The beneficial effects of the quota system are still not clear. Some recovery in prices was reported at the end of last year and in January, but there have recently been signs of renewed price-cutting and demand remains weak. This largely explains the toughness of the second quarter quotas.

Figures released by the Commission today estimate total EEC production last year to have amounted to 127.7 million tonnes, 12.4 million tonnes less than in 1979.

Joint steel strategy: Britain and Germany appear to have reached broad agreement for a joint strategy at next week's crucial talks on the future of the European steel industry, when the Council of Ministers meets to consider the next phase of restructuring. (Peter Hill writes.)

Yesterday Mr Norman Tebbit, Minister for Industry, had detailed talks in London with Dr Otto Lambsdorff, the West German Economic Minister.

In talks at official level, the United Kingdom has suggested a strict timetable for the elimination of state subsidies by the end of 1984 with an extension of the current production controls.

Pound falls further against dollar

By John Whitmore

Sterling lost further ground against a generally stronger dollar yesterday as speculation grew that the Government would make a large cut in the Bank of England's minimum lending rate in next month's Budget.

The pound fell to \$2.2020 at one stage yesterday before picking up towards the close to finish with a net loss of 2.1 cents at \$2.2050. Its index against a basket of currencies fell 0.4 to 98.9.

Over February as a whole the sterling index has fallen by 5 per cent. Against the dollar, sterling has dropped by almost 7 per cent.

The main reason for the pound's decline has been the conviction that international interest rate differentials may be about to widen significantly. Although dollar rates have declined this month, there is a fear that this may prove short-lived.

At the same time, the German authorities have felt forced to allow short-term interest rates to rise sharply to stabilize the Deutschmark.

By contrast, the British Government is expected to reduce MLR by at least 2 per cent on Wednesday. The critical clause 76 which deals with the pressure on the Government to cut interest rates sharply.

The Government is launching a new stock issue for 'high tech' firms on Wednesday. It is offering £500m nominal of Treasury 3 per cent 1986 at a minimum tender price of £69.1 per cent.

The expectation of a sharp cut in MLR led to a further drop in Treasury Bill yields. The 182-day bill fell from 11.58 to 11.56 per cent the previous Friday.

Lonrho bid for Fraser referred

Continued from page 1

Commission want to examine the deal, let them go ahead. We have nothing to fear."

Mr Ernest Sharp, non-executive deputy chairman of Fraser, said they had been confident of "seeing them off" without the monopolies reference.

With both sides claiming support from institutional shareholders, Fraser had intended yesterday to begin taking soundings of the views of the big pension funds and insurance companies.

That exercise will now be put off until after the Monopolies Commission has reported. The Commission is allowed six months with provision for a three-month extension in exceptional circumstances.

For Lonrho, it will be its second monopolies investigation in as many years. Its all-share bid for Scottish and Universal Investments in 1978 was referred and reported on in March 1979.

The current referral has been made because the size of assets involved is more than £150m. But the Monopolies Commission is clearly going to look at whether a promise made to them during the last inquiry has been kept. That promise was that Lonrho's indirect stake in Fraser, via Suits, would not lead to it influencing or controlling Fraser materially.

Office of Fair Trading rules that refusal to sell to multiple stores is anti-competitive

Monopolies referral for Raleigh bicycles

The retail policy of the Raleigh group, part of Tub Investments, is to be investigated by the Monopolies and Mergers Commission in the first case to be pursued under the new Competition Act.

Mr Gordon Barrie, the director-general of fair trading, yesterday said that he had referred the case to the commission after finding that the company was operating an anti-competitive practice by refusing to sell to multiple stores.

Mr Tom McAuliffe, chairman of Argos, one of the multiples concerned, said last night that the company was writing to 10 other manufacturers which had refused to sell their products adding it they would reconsider their decision in the light of the OFT report on Raleigh.

The companies are Alfred Dunhill, Hitachi, JVC, National Panasonic, Sony, Toshiba, Wedgwood, Carlton Sport, Time Products and Rolex Watches.

Mr Ian Phillips, chairman and managing director of TI Raleigh Industries, said that the company regretted the OFT's decision, which only considered aspects of competition to the exclusion of broader issues of public interest such as road safety.

"It is TI Raleigh's policy, when it has the choice, to trade only through outlets where proper arrangements are made for technical service and spare parts."

"It does not consider it to be in its own interest or in those of the public to have its bicycles sold through outlets which provide no proper technical or service base themselves, and which set out to undermine the sales of those who do."

The National Association of Cycle and Motorcycle Traders said that it was bitterly disappointed by the OFT report and that it would take "every step necessary to support TI Raleigh in its endeavours to establish the right of manufacturers to supply to whom they wish."

The Monopolies Commission will decide whether the trading policy of Raleigh, which has 45 per cent of the United Kingdom bicycle market, is in the public interest.

Mr Barrie said in the OFT report that he had identified an anti-competitive practice being pursued by a dominant manufacturer of an important product. The group represented that the practice was in the public interest, but conflicting views had been expressed from several sources about the group about whether such a view was correct.

Decision to sell shares in Cable & Wireless likely next week

By Our Industrial Staff

The Government is likely to announce formally next week its decision to sell shares in Cable & Wireless, the state-owned international communications business.

It is expected that the public will be allowed to subscribe for 49 per cent of the group, which has a long and successful record between 1976 and 1980, when it earned £59m before a supplementary depreciation charge.

The key to the announcement is the progress reached in the telecommunications Bill. The critical clause 76 which deals with the pressure on the Government to cut interest rates sharply.

The Government is launching a new stock issue for 'high tech' firms on Wednesday. It is offering £500m nominal of Treasury 3 per cent 1986 at a minimum tender price of £69.1 per cent.

The expectation of a sharp cut in MLR led to a further drop in Treasury Bill yields. The 182-day bill fell from 11.58 to 11.56 per cent the previous Friday.

Further 3,000 jobs go in factory cutbacks

By John Huxley and Clifford Webb

Guest, Keen and Nettelfolds is to close two more factories supplying the motor industry. A total of 740 jobs will be lost at Newton, Powys, and Eaglescliffe, co Durham, both areas of high unemployment.

Elsewhere, more than 2,300 other redundancies were announced, although 1,500 workers in Scotland learned that they would be returning to full-time working for the first time since September, and Tesco announced plans which will create up to 600 jobs.

More than 360 jobs will be lost at Hardy Spicer, of Eaglescliffe, a GKN subsidiary which opened in the early 1960s as a result of government pressure on Midlands companies to export jobs to areas of high unemployment. The company makes drive shafts for motor vehicles, made 120 workers redundant last year.

The Chemical Industries Association is reducing its staff by about 100 by almost one third. Cuts will affect all levels of staff from directors downwards.

Delta Group yesterday blamed declining international competitiveness because of the strength of sterling for its decision to close a Delatow factory at Crawley, Sussex. More than 300 jobs will be lost.

Deltaflow, Britain's largest maker of taps and water mixers, is closing both its manufacturing and warehouse facilities.

International Harvester is to reduce its workforce by about 530, or 10 per cent. About 440 jobs will be lost at the company's Bradford plant and about 30 in Doncaster. The reductions follow a period of extensive short-time working.

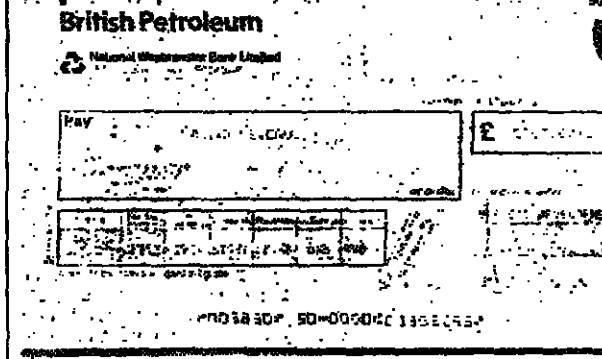
Further redundancies were announced by Courtaulds, the ailing textiles group. About one third of the 600 research staff at its man-made fibres plant in Coventry will lose their jobs because of a decline in orders and production. In addition, about 140 jobs will be lost in the research sections of Courtaulds' plants in Spondon, Derbyshire, and Rochdale, Lancashire.

More than 180 jobs will be lost as a result of a decision by Luke and Spencer, part of Unicron Industries of Windsor, Berkshire, to close its Broadheath, Manchester, factory.

C. H. and S. Engineering of Bridgend, Mid Glamorgan, which deals in structural steel, industrial pipework and general engineering, is to make 126 workers redundant.

Meanwhile, the 1,500 workers at former General Motors Terex plant at Newhouse, Lanarkshire, which makes earth-moving equipment, are to go back on full-time working.

Tesco is to develop a shopping complex in Leicester that will create between 400 and 600 jobs. The scheme is for a Tesco superstore, garden centre, open market, public house, two more stores and about 40 shop units.



A cheque for more than £500m was handed to the Indian Revenue by British Petroleum when it made the biggest single payment in settlement of a bill for £54.4m petroleum revenue tax on North Sea oil. The difference was made up by tax certificates on deposit at the Indian Revenue, and the cheque

SE chief's broking firm in merger talks

By Catherine Gunn

Mr Nicholas Goodison, chairman of the Stock Exchange and senior partner of Quilter-Hilton Goodison, stockbrokers, yesterday confirmed that merger talks were under way between his firm and Heddewick Stirling Grumbar.

Final negotiations started on Thursday afternoon, though informal discussions have been going on for several weeks, Mr Goodison said.

Mr Richard Blaxland, managing partner of Quilter, said yesterday that the two firms may not be able to announce the result of their talks until Monday.

Mr Goodison stressed that Quilter would not be taking on Heddewick's gilt-edged business. "We have a small, gilt-edged business of our own," he said.

Quilter's chief interest in Heddewick is its private client side. "It has always been our policy as a firm to absorb suitable businesses to enhance our leading position in the management of our private client funds, or our specialist services to institutions," Mr Goodison said.

Heddewick's gilt department has been the subject of two Stock Exchange investigations in the last two and a half years. The first and most serious centred on the conduct of the gilt-edged business under Mr Heddewick's control, who left the firm in 1979 and was subsequently expelled from Stock Exchange membership after an inquiry.

The Stock Exchange passed on its findings to the City of London Fraud Squad in February 1980, but the Fraud Squad decided to take no action in the case of Mr Webster or the firm.

Heddewick was notified of this decision by the Director of Public Prosecutions late last year, Mr Wallis Hunt, the firm's senior partner, said yesterday.

There are 26 partners at Quilter, and 22 at Heddewick, and the composition of the combined firm is now under discussion.

Mr Hunt said that increase in the strength in stockbroking. "We hope to reach a final decision on Monday," he said. "We have been talking for quite a while." Both firms had earlier denied that talks were going on.

The problem has arisen partly because the domestic price for sugar in India is higher than the prevailing world price, despite the latter being at record levels for a year. When the Indian government appointed a state trading corporation invited tenders for export, Indian sellers asked for prices which it considered to be inflated.

India may default on sugar deal

By Michael Prest

The Indian Government is in danger of defaulting on an agreement to supply E. D. & F. Man, the London sugar traders, with about 180,000 tonnes of white sugar by June this year. At present market prices the sugar is worth about £50m.

Man supplied India with a similar amount of sugar in 1980 and part of the deal was that India would repay Man in kind this year, but the Indian Government has banned sugar exports prospectively from February 21.

Man was not prepared to comment yesterday because of the delicacy of the situation.

Sugar market sources in London said that the quantity in dispute might be only 120,000 tonnes and it was still possible that the sugar would be repaid but not within the contracted period.

The problem has arisen partly because the domestic price for sugar in India is higher than the prevailing world price, despite the latter being at record levels for a year. When the Indian government appointed a state trading corporation invited tenders for export, Indian sellers asked for prices which it considered to be inflated.

Makers and users disappointed by frequency choice

CB airwaves buzz with discord

The airwaves of illegal citizens band radio are still ringing with the debate about the Government's decision to legalise and allocate two frequencies to its use.

The estimated 250,000 British users of illegal equipment, called "breakers", and even the manufacturers who had recommended frequencies different from those decided on by the Government, are less than satisfied.

By next autumn anyone wishing to operate CB equipment will be able to buy an annually renewable licence, probably at a Post Office, which will permit him to transmit within a limited range on 27MHz and 93MHz.

However the Government after advice from the Home Office, has determined that transmission must be by frequency modulation (FM) whereas the type of equipment used by most of the "breakers" uses amplitude modulation (AM).

It is here that the myths begin. Objective discussion seems to be becoming increasingly rare.

There are about 19 countries which allow citizens band for private use. Most have been using 27MHz AM but have been having increasing problems because the signals often cause interference with other radio equipment such as paging systems, Holland, France, Luxembourg and the Irish Republic have therefore opted for 27MHz FM.

Pye Telecommunications, a subsidiary of Philips, was one of the principal British suppliers to investigate the subject. It has expressed its disappointment at the Home Office decision publicly and says it has no intention of competing in the market at this stage.

The allocation of 27MHz FM in Britain gives a head start to those manufacturers already supplying Holland, France, Luxembourg and the Irish Republic, although the electronics needed for higher frequency 93MHz FM equipment could make the sets prohibitively expensive.

Again for that reason Pye will not be competing at the early stages and sets will come from the United States, Taiwan, Japan and other locations in the Far East.

Bill Johnstone

A GUIDE TO INVESTMENT TRUSTS-7

Value for money

So far in the series we have outlined the advantages of Investment Trusts and have attempted to explain some of the technical aspects of the sector. We have however not yet discussed in any detail the costs involved.

Management charges

Some Investment Trusts employ their own salaried managers. Most, however, employ a management company or firm which charges an annual fee. Overall, Investment Trust management charges are lower than for other investment media. While it is impossible to provide precise figures because charges vary from one Investment Trust to another, on average Investment Trusts' annual charges are about one-third of one per cent of assets under management.

This is particularly good value at a time when many Unit Trust groups are negotiating with unitholders to raise charges. Bear in mind however that the level of charges is not an indication of the quality of management and the Investment Trust industry employs some of the finest and most accomplished investment managers in the world. The lower charges of Investment Trusts are mainly the result of the virtual absence of marketing costs.

As explained in Guide Number 1, Investment Trusts are limited liability companies which means that, by law, they cannot invite people to buy their shares through pages of advertising or the use of salesmen. While this places Investment Trusts at a marketing disadvantage, it does mean that their average costs are lower. Furthermore, it also means that more of the money put up by investors (who, it must be remembered, always ultimately pay for promotional costs) goes where it was intended - directly into their chosen investment.

Buying and selling

As a result of Investment Trusts being limited liability companies, their shares can only be bought through The Stock Exchange and cannot be bought from the Trust itself. Thus the shares are bought and sold through a stockbroker or by the investor instructing his bank manager or other professional adviser to act on his behalf. The costs incurred by investors in buying or selling shares should not be confused with Trusts' management charges.

When buying Ordinary shares of any company, including Investment Trusts, U.K. residents are subject to the following expenses: Government transfer stamp duty, contract stamp duty and stockbrokers' commission.

On a sale similar expenses would arise on the proceeds except that no Government stamp duty would be payable.

Assets at a discount

Most Investment Trust shares are bought and sold at a discount on their underlying asset values; this is explained in more detail in Guide Number 5.

This means that Investment Trusts usually offer a way of buying a stake in other companies at reduced prices and that the Investment Trust shareholder has additional assets working for each pound invested.

Next Saturday: A defence against inflation

Reprints of the complete eight-part series which makes up "A Guide to Investment Trusts" are available on request from The Secretary, The Association of Investment Trust Companies, Park House (Sixth Floor), 16 Finabury Circus, London EC2M 7JJ. Tel: 01-588 5347.

THE ASSOCIATION OF INVESTMENT TRUST COMPANIES

PRICE CHANGES

Rises					
Lowry Group	13p to 24 1/2p				
Terrell	37p to 52p				
Zaxo Hids	16p to 20p				
Global Nat Res	15p to 44p				
	13p to 10 1/2p				
Falls					
Allen H & Ross	20p to 38 1/2p				
Cartier Cons	13p to 23 1/2p				
Electrolux	13p to 9 1/2p				
Hamamson	5p to 6 1/2p				
Kuross	7p to 5 1/2p				
THE POUND					
Bank buys	9 1/2%	Bank sells	11 1/2%		
Australia \$	1.97	Norway Kr	12.55		
Austria Sch	35.85	Portugal Esc	20.48		
Belgium Fr	81.50	Spain Ptas	166.36		
Canada \$	2.73	Sweden Kr	10.71		
Denmark Kr	15.55	Switzerland Fr	4.50		
Finland Mk	9.50	USA \$	2.2050		
France Fr	11.40	Yugoslavia Dnr	64.50		
Germany DM	4.90				
Greece Dr	110.00				
Hongkong \$	12.15				
Ireland Pd	1.32				
Italy Lit	2350.00				
Japan Yn	488.00				
Netherlands Gld	5.40				

PERSONAL INVESTMENT AND FINANCE

Taxation

Preparing for bed and breakfast-time

It is around this season of the year that a chorus of financial advisers and stockbrokers start urging the investing public to "bed and breakfast" shares in order to save capital gains tax. The trouble is that many people have only the haziest idea about the nature of this particular manoeuvre. So, with the end of the tax year in sight, here is a short guide to the do's and don'ts of saving CGT in this way.

At the heart of the bed and breakfast operation lies the fundamental rule throughout capital gains tax—you do not have a CGT liability unless you make a disposal (or a transaction which is treated as a disposal). So why should you deliberately want to realize a gain?

One of the reasons is to use up your small gains exemption. The first £3,000 of net gains (that is, total gains less total losses) realized each year is free of tax; and thereafter the tax rate is 30 per cent. So, if you had a £9,000 gain (and no others that year) on disposal the first £3,000 would be tax-free but the remainder would be taxed at 30 per cent with a £1,800 CGT bill. However, if you sold them over a three-year period, making a £3,000 tax-free gain each year, then you could save that £1,800.

But suppose you did not wish to sell your shares but still wanted to take advantage of the exemption—then the answer is to bed and breakfast them; you sell your shares and buy them back again the next day. In this way you make the gain, pay no tax and establish a higher cost price for the future in terms of any future gain. So, with your

£9,000 gain you could bed and breakfast £3,000 of the gain each year and end up with the same result—but still holding the shares.

You actually do the bed and breakfast operation as follows: ask your stockbroker to sell the shares before 3.30 pm in the middle of the week and he makes an informal arrangement with the jobber that you will be able to buy back the shares at an agreed price on the morning of the following day.

Under Stock Exchange rules, brokers and jobbers are not allowed to make binding forward bargains, so the arrangement is by way of being a gentleman's agreement. In the fairly unlikely event of a very important overnight change in circumstances, which would move the share price dramatically, the bed and breakfast arrangement may not hold up.

You cannot afford to ignore the costs of this operation. The charge is normally 15 per cent of the total disposal value up to £7,000; in addition, the jobber's profit or "turn" is usually a further 25 per cent of this commission. So to bed and breakfast a £7,000 transaction, say, would cost about £147 in commissions and the like.

In contrast, a number of unit trust managers are nowadays prepared to undertake bed and breakfast operations and the cost in this case is usually a very nominal charge. Schroder quote a flat rate of £15 regardless of the size of the transaction and Arbuthnot say they will undertake a bed and breakfast on the same basis for about £35 flat charge.

Sometimes, it may be worth bed and breakfasting a share or unit trust in order to realize a loss. The loss can be set against taxable gains and the tax liability is therefore postponed until a subsequent year—when perhaps the exemption will apply. If for example, you have net realized gains of £5,000 and an as yet unrealized loss of £2,000, then it may be worth bed and breakfasting the latter in order to stop a CGT liability arising this year.

But you are, of course, generating a future higher capital gains tax liability in a subsequent year because you are reducing the base cost of your investment. In other words, you will be treated as if you had bought it at the new lower price.

Six point check list for bed and breakfasting.

1. Always try to use up the £3,000 small gains exemption but not unless the amount of tax saved is significantly greater than the commission costs of dealing.

2. If you bed and breakfast losses, remember that if you have a large and fairly actively managed portfolio the only benefit is probably in terms of cashflow rather than ultimate tax saving.

3. Always bed and breakfast those assets where the loss or gain constitutes the highest proportion of the total value. The cost of bed and breakfasting are based on the total value of the transaction not the amount of the loss or gain you make.

4. Generally it is a good idea to bed and breakfast unit trusts before you bed and breakfast shares, but check the dealing costs with the unit trust managers first.

5. If you are bed and breakfasting losses on gilts within a year of their purchase, (while the loss is still allowable) do not repurchase exactly the same gilt or you will find you have not established a loss for tax purposes. The commission on gilts is in any case much less than on shares.

6. Avoid bed and breakfasting too early in the year. There is always the possibility you might get caught out by an unexpected gain such as a takeover or similar development before April 5, thereby ending up with an unexpected tax liability.

Danby Bloch and Raymond Godfrey

HOFF of HEYBRIDGE HEATH



BY ROSS

Income bonds

Business booms on rate cut hopes

SHORT TERM INCOME BONDS		
Company	Minimum Investment	Annual net yield
Two-year bonds		
Premium Life	£500	11.5
Windsor Life	500	12.0
Four-year bonds		
Abbey Life	1,000	11.3-12.4
Cannon	1,000	11.8-13.1
Canterbury Life	1,000	11
Credit and Commerce	500	12-13
Hill Samuel	1,000	11.25-12.0
Liberty Life	500	11.2-14
Lloyds Life	1,500	11.5
Pioneer Mutual	500	11.6-13.1
Providence Capital	1,000	11.7-14
Target	1,000	12.25-13.5
Transnational Life	1,000	11.75
Trident Life	1,000	12-14

*Net of basic rate tax. Variable yields improve with age.

†Variable yield improves over the period.

**12 per cent offered on a joint life basis

will not be able to reclaim the tax paid, while higher rate taxpayers will face a further liability to tax on the income.

Liberty Life, however, varies the yield on its bond with the term. For the first two years, the bond pays out 11.2 per cent net of basic rate tax (equivalent to 16 per cent gross). You then have the option of cashing in your bond for the full value of your investment. But if you leave it with the company, it pays out 12.5 per cent net of basic rate tax rising to 14 per cent if you opt for a further year.

The bonds offer a better return than four-year term shares offered by building societies, which generally pay 1.5 per

cent over the ordinary share rate—at present 9.25 per cent—for four-year money. But when interest rates come down—a cut in minimum lending rate is widely predicted for the Budget—will bonds seem any more attractive? Building societies only guarantee to maintain the margin over the ordinary rate throughout the term—not the rate itself.

As a basic rate tax payer qualifying for tax relief on a bond, you can do better than the 10.33 per cent offered by National Savings Certificates over five years. Crown Life has a five-year income bond paying out 11.75 per cent net of basic rate tax.

A year ago there were some

very attractive one and two year bonds on the market paying about 18 per cent and 15 per cent respectively which were pulled in some £30m before they were axed in the budget. So many face the decision of how to reinvest their money maturing from a one-year bond.

Before you reinvest this money in another income bond you should look into your tax relief position. The construction of the one-year bonds meant that you used up at least some of your tax relief quota for this year as well as last. You might not be eligible for further relief until the beginning of the next tax year in April, which will mean a lower yield from your bond than those shown in the table, at least for the first year.

Cannon Assurance has designed a bond for those facing this problem. Its four-year bond, offering between 11.5 per cent and 13 per cent net of basic rate tax—slightly less than its standard bond—works in such a way that the first payment on the underlying annual premium policy is not paid until the beginning of the next tax year and therefore qualifies for tax relief.

Meanwhile, Liberty Life has come out with a scheme offering its one-year bond holders the option to leave the money invested for a further year for a return of 12.1 per cent. This is particularly attractive to the higher rate taxpayer as there is no further tax payable on this return. Not surprisingly, the company reports a two-thirds take up of its offer.

Act quickly if you want to take advantage of these high rates. If M.L.R. is reduced in the Budget, these rates might well come down too, although some companies are hopeful of keeping them on offer until the end of March. Nevertheless, rates will come down anyway in a few weeks time when the level of tax relief available falls from 17.5 per cent to 15 per cent.

Sylvia Morris

Self-employed pensions

Provision for premature death

Most self-employed people by the time they reach their early to mid-forties have fairly firm ideas about retirement. If you are in that position and have been contributing to a personal pension policy, no doubt you have decided when you will take your pension—and how you will spend or invest the tax-free lump sum which can be taken in exchange for giving up part of your pension.

But a significant proportion of those planning for retirement will die "in harness" and will not live to draw a pension. In that event, what happens to the contributions which have been paid over the years to one or more life assurance offices?

The traditional approach by life offices has been to return the premiums paid to the date of death—with or without the addition of a fairly modest rate of interest.

Often a person with no dependants has been able to opt for no return of premiums in the event of a death—in exchange for a higher pension if he lives to enjoy it. Since a number of prospective pensioners do die, the smaller return in the event of death the better should be the ultimate pension benefit.

A growing number of life offices are offering a "return of fund". This broadly means the value of the fund accumulated to date.

In cases where the pension contributions have been made for a number of years, the value of the fund (which invests on a tax-exempt basis) should be significantly greater than a return of premiums paid to date, even with the addition of interest at 6 per cent.

At one stage there was probably a fairly sound argument for not taking too large a return in the event of early death where this would reduce the amount of the pension.

First, since the money could not be left to the next generation free from capital transfer tax (although it could go to a spouse free from CTT), it could be said that, at some stage, the value of any return might well be reduced by capital transfer tax.

Secondly, in the past, the level of pension contribution which could be made was quite modest. It was fair to say that those relatively modest contributions should buy a reasonable level of pension cover, all if extra life cover was needed, it could be bought in the open market (by anybody in good health), although full relief of tax could not be claimed on such premiums.

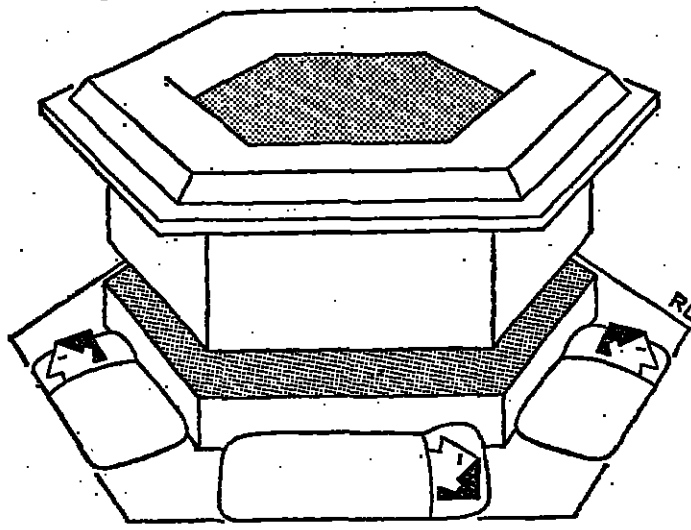
However, the position is different. Since the Finance Act 1980, returns by a life office in the event of early death can pass to the next generation on what should be a tax-free basis. This change applies not only to new premiums, but also to any premiums paid in the past.

If you would like this money (should it be payable) to pass to your children, grandchildren (or anybody else), free from capital transfer tax, contact your insurance company with which you have policies in force, and ask them to set the wheels in motion. Judging from personal experience, it may take time to get the necessary paperwork filled in, but it is worth the effort.

Certainly, the return of fund approach does mean that, whatever life cover may be in force (or, nearing retirement, there will be an accumulating fund which will be paid out at death. And the capital sum involved (which would be considerable) can be free from capital transfer tax.

Perhaps, ideally, life offices should give a choice of return of fund, return of premiums plus a fixed rate of interest, return of premiums with no interest, or simply no return at all.

John Drummond



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You've got some capital and want to make the most of it.

Nationwide Capital Bonds give you a very wide choice. They guarantee extra interest above our variable Ordinary Share rate. The table shows the extra interest

guaranteed for the initial term and the present interest rates based on our current Share rate of 9.25%.

There are over 1,000 Nationwide branches and agency branches. Call in at your local branch or post the coupon.

Initial Extra ⁺	Term Interest	Gross [†]	Net [‡]	£500-£20,000
5 yrs	2%	16.07%	11.25%	
4 yrs	1 1/2%	15.36%	10.75%	11.25%
3 yrs	1%	14.64%	10.25%	10.75%
2 yrs	3/4%	14.29%	10.00%	10.25%
1 yr	1/2%	13.93%	9.75%	10.00%

⁺ guaranteed above the prevailing Ordinary Share rate which may vary

[†] gross to income tax payers [‡] whole rate before income tax

GUARANTEED EXTRA INTEREST

Capital Bonds guarantee you extra interest at the rate appropriate for the initial term you select. The longer you invest, the higher the interest rate. And you get all your extra interest right from the start.

STAY ON TOP RATES

If you choose a Bond of less than 5 years and then decide to leave your money invested, your extra interest will increase each year up to a maximum in the 5th and subsequent years. So you have a long term option from a short term investment.

WITHDRAWAL OPTION

At the end of the initial term selected you can withdraw all your investment. Or you can leave it to earn up to its highest interest at only 3 months' notice of repayment by the investor or the society.

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You can leave your interest invested in the Bond for even faster capital growth. For example, a 5 year Bond now offers 11.25% which compounds to an annual rate of 11.57%, worth 16.53% gross to basic rate taxpayers.

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I/We enclose a cheque for £ to be invested in a Nationwide Capital Bond for an initial term of 1 year ☐ 2 years ☐ 3 years ☐ 4 years ☐ 5 years ☐ Interest is to be compounded ☐ or paid monthly ☐ Your total investment in all your Nationwide accounts must not exceed £20,000 (£40,000 for a joint account). No withdrawals are possible during the initial Bond term selected except following the death of an investor.

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Full Name(s)

Address

Date

TV

It pays to decide Nationwide

هكذا من الأصل

EDITED BY MARGARET STONE

FINANCIAL NEWS

Computers

Every home should have one

The explosion of the television games market and the exposure given children even at primary school level to the uses and fun of the microchip has brought increasing pressure to bear on parents to "get with it".

The domestic market is still small in comparison to the growing demand from the small business market but it is destined to be a growth area over the next few years as the full potential of the microcomputer at home is realized.

Using the household computer to manage domestic finance will be one chore that the average family could easily develop. All bank statements and bills to be paid will act as the basic data for the system. Each morning the user enters the key in the date and will be told the bills still outstanding, their last day for payment, the bank balance and the next payment into the bank account from the employer. The system requires to be updated by the user every time a bill is received or indeed as money is spent. Insurance records, share portfolios, even the birth dates can be fed into the system.

The computer with the proper software can act as a word-processor or text editor. All letters, essays or personal notes can be written on the screen (using a keyboard) and can be electronically edited in seconds without the necessity of retyping. Words, letters and paragraphs can be removed or replaced at will.

Details of every telephone call can be entered into the microcomputer and checked off against the new list of bills which is expected to be available from British Telecom through its new digital System X exchanges in the future.

Also the telephone and the electricity meter could be connected to the computer and give the householder a daily update of usage and cost. And when the appropriate technology arrives lighting, heating and air conditioning in the home may well be controlled by the same microcomputer.

Manufacturers like Commodore, Tandy, Apple have dominated the microcomputer market.

The personal computer sector will see new products for business and the home coming from Texas Instruments, Xerox, Hewlett-Packard, IBM and the Japanese Nippon Electric, in the near future.

Last April Texas Instru-



Children—and dolls—are a likely target market for microcomputer salesmen.

ments launched its personal computer in London equipped with its own speech unit.

For a little over £1,000 comes a small computer unit/keyboard and a 14in colour television set.

Other designs like the British-made Nascom and the Sinclair or the American Tandy, Apple and the latest from Commodore are all intended to allow the user the option of using his own domestic television receiver as the display unit, so saving cost.

The highly successful PET Commodore microcomputer, which has sold over 18,000 units to schools, colleges and universities throughout the United Kingdom is a unit complete with screen, keyboard and the microelectronics. It sells for about £475.

So what do you look for when buying a microcomputer?

It all depends what you expect from the device. If you want one to perform modern operations only and to have limited use then the Sinclair microcomputer retailing for around £100 could be sufficient.

Generally speaking the basic "hardware" of the microcomputer will cost between £100 and £1,400. The choice will ultimately depend on how much

storage the user might need for his data and programming instructions.

These storage sizes vary from model to model. Most commonly available are those with 8,000 characters (8K bytes) capacity or 16,000 characters (16K bytes). The number of programs to be used in the computer will dictate what space is left for information or data to be stored.

These programs or "software" now cover a vast range of activities. There are literally hundreds of programs that can be bought off-the-shelf for just a few pounds. Apart from the plethora of television games, best seen in the hardware and software of the Atari) teaching aids for the home user include cookery, algebra, modern languages and mathematical games.

The typical program for home use would vary in price from about £2 to £25.

The programs are normally "loaded" into the computer's internal store (8K or 16K) from the instructions contained on a cassette tape. After the program has been loaded, the user can then remove the tape and use the microcomputer for other tasks.

The tapes used for storage

are the standard sizes—C12, C30, C60, C90, C120 which retail from about 50p each. The numbers refer to the running time of the tape. Although the longer running tapes can at first sight appear to be more economical it can sometimes be very difficult to locate the particular piece of data you want.

This is where the disc excels. There are two basic types available to the microcomputer user—the floppy and the hard.

The disc, which can only be played on a specially designed disc drive, allows the user instant access to that particular part of the disc, containing the specific item of information required. For about £400 a tape drive able to store between 120,000 and 150,000 characters can be added to the basic microcomputer system.

The cost of the hardware is falling, as is that of the more standard software packages. It may be that such a trend could cause the purchasing explosion which is being witnessed by manufacturers, or it may be that the microcomputer will make the end of the century as common as the telephone.

Bill Johnstone

Stock markets

Rally brings gains across the board

The market recovered from ICI's figures on Thursday to end the three week account with gains across the board.

The FT Index once again broke through the barrier to close at 506.6. The huge two-way trade in ICI reflects the conflicting views about the group's recovery prospects and the shares, opening at 260p rose 6p on the day but ended back at 260p.

With investors firmly convinced of a cut—some say 4 per cent—in ICI's share price, the brewery and insurance sectors which saw the largest movements on the back of dividend increases. Excellent results from Plessey on Thursday kept electronics well to the fore, aided by defence spending prospects highlighted by Mrs Thatcher's visit to the White House. Plessey, itself up 4p to 323p, led the sector with Ferantum improving 35p to 560p in a thin market followed by GEC up 7p to 652p, Racal, adding 6p to 370p, and Thorn EMI, picking up 2p to 314p.

The new Budget account next week is not thought to alter these as "safe stocks" and

two-way business is expected to continue.

Glits did not take strength from the firm atmosphere elsewhere but lagged behind waiting for the new tap issue. After fully discounting the £500m 3 per cent Treasury 1986 issue, stocks saw a quiet day. Longs, after opening £1 easier, recovered £1 by the close.

Sizeable buying, some from the Continent, has lifted Bluebird Confectionery (the old Harry Vincent toffee group) by 14p to 277p. The group is effectively controlled by Mr Edward Nassar, with a 48 per cent stake. Bluebird is busy developing property, using the good profits it makes from sweets.

Shorts also saw quiet conditions occupying the £1 lot earlier by the close.

Although the FT Index dropped 1.5 points in the morning, it climbed steadily through the day to show a rise of 506.6 at 3 pm, but after hours trading sent it up to close at 506.6.

Leading equities rallied strongly in the morning, but declined after a hectic day, and good two-way trade with investors switching from ICI to other stock. Unilever, reporting next week, added 3p to 486p, but Fisons, nervous in front of Monday's results, eased 3p to 130p. Glaxo was in fine demand with a 16p rise to 220p. Reckitts added 2p to 153p. British Aerospace improved 4p to 179p and Hawker Siddeley 2p to 294p. Another factory closure in Wales saw 1p knocked from GKN at 144p, but Kvaerner and Newall added 1p to 77p. Rockliffe added 2p to 208p and Tubes were up 4p to 194p. Courtaulds were unaffected by redundancies to stay at 63p. Dowty was up 13p to 247p.

Aggressive buying was reported in the afternoon as dealers suggested that prospects of well-covered dividends are drawing investors from stocks such as ICI. Allied up 4p to 68p, Bass was ahead to 216p. 6p rise. Grand Met, still boosted by royal wedding prospects, rose 8p to 182p. Distillers added 5p to 196p.

Guinness put on 2p to 78p and Unilever, with takeover bids a frequent rumour, went ahead 9p to 125p to close at 133p on speculative buying.

Stores joined in the overall flurry of activity despite the Monopolies Commission referral of the Loroche bid for House of Fraser. House of Fraser, which there was heavy buying, opened at 132p, a 19p drop, but settled during the day to close at 143p, a fall of 5p.

Burton still attracted speculative support for a rise of 5p to 129p and many second-liners were ahead. Good trading news from R. J. Pallen added 2p to 51p. Alcon in stores Gas "A" added 5p to 48p and Cury's put on 12p to 323p. The Savoy Group, excited by the Kuwaiti stake, added 5p to 129p.

Oils recovered after a slow start with small rises in the leaders. BP were ahead 6p to 416p. Shell saw a similar rise to 426p. Ultramar went up 6p to 486p and Lasso reported a 3p rise to 652p. After trading news from Ringer, its shares were in demand with 40p added to 66p. Further comments on the Norwegian stock market saw Bechem rise 45 points to £235. Ganger Roffit up £15 to £230 and Berger up £25 to £15.

Equity turnover for February 26 was £171,218m (bargains 21,708). Active stocks according to the Exchange Telegraph were Allied Breweries, ICI, Charter Consolidated, British Aerospace, and Unilever.

Traditional options: Dealers reported increased activity with calls made in ICI, Loroche, Coors Gold, Sainsbury, Marks and Spencer and Carrington Viella. Traded options: The total number of contracts recorded was 1,502 with ICI attracting 313. Commercial Union took 157, Courtaulds a 100, and Coors Gold 22 and Racal 78.

Latest results

Company	Sales	Profit	Earnings	Div	Pay	Year's
£m	£m	£m	per share	pence	date	total
ICI	1,000	0.7 (0.65*)	11.1 (0.68)	15 (1)	21/4	23 (2.5)
Allen Harvey (F)	—	0.1 (0.05*)	—	—	—	10.5 (9.35)
Alliance Trust (F)	—	0.005 (0.004)	—	1.0 (—)	—	2.0 (NH)
Alcon (F)	—	0.28 (0.25*)	—	4.35 (—)	2/4	4 (2)
Bond St Fabrics (F)	8.6 (8.1)	—	—	—	—	—
Fledgling Inv (F)	—	0.73 (0.82)	—	0.7 (—)	27/4	1.2 (1.2)
Kunick (I)	0.73 (0.58)	0.55 (0.58)	2.26 (3.96)	1.03 (1.03)	—	—
R. & J. Pallen (I)	10.1 (9.85)	0.66 (0.71)	—	0.03 (0.28)	—	—
Raine Eng (I)	5.39 (7.74)	0.25 (0.12)	0.1 (0.65)	—	—	—
Sec Alliance (I)	—	0.75 (0.82)	3.84 (4.12)	—	—	—
Stewart & Wright (I)	0.09 (0.1)	0.008 (0.002*)	—	NR (NH)	—	—
Tor Inv Trust (I)	—	0.21 (0.20)	—	2.8 (2.8)	1/4	—

Dividends in this table are shown net of tax on pence per share. Earnings in British News dividends are shown gross. * = Net. † = Loss.

Decision time soon for LEG

By Philip Robinson

Property group turned into a takeover bid has attracted the attention of predators. LEG has been selling its properties and has so far obtained £2.8m. Those remaining have just been revalued at £6.2m and one all are sold, the group would be debt-free with around £7m in cash.

Mr John O'Hara, LEG's chief executive who is expected to be appointed to the main board next month, said yesterday: "We would like to expand by acquisition, but would be prepared to talk to others. However it would have to be an agreed merger."

The board has little shareholding control, and despite a

Ridgway, But in writing together

the cash for a bid it has attracted the attention of predators. LEG has been selling its properties and has so far obtained £2.8m. Those remaining have just been revalued at £6.2m and one all are sold, the group would be debt-free with around £7m in cash.

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The board has little shareholding control, and despite a

number of attempts, LEG has

been unable to find the investors behind an 11.7 per cent shareholding registered as Strathclyde. Its other major shareholder is Monarch Assurance Company with 10.1 per cent.

For the past three years, LEG has been developing its industrial interests and running down the property side under former chief executive Mr Malcolm Horsman. He resigned six weeks ago upon his appointment as managing director of Tozer, Kemsley & Milbourne (Holdings). The group's policy change began with the acquisition of O. C. Summers in 1977.

S. Pearson buys more of Cedar Point

S. Pearson and Son is making

an offer for a further 15 per cent stake in Cedar Point Inc of Sandusky, Ohio, which runs amusement parks and recreation centres. The agreed bid will be at \$4.95 (£15.8) a share. Pearson already owns about 10 per cent of Cedar and if its offer is successful the resulting 25 per cent stake will have cost \$25.6m before expenses. This would be met from the group's existing resources and banking facilities.

Garnar expects loss of £195,000 for year

Garnar Scofield estimates a

pre-tax loss for the year to January 31 of about £195,000, in its document for the acquisition of Booth (International Holdings). Garnar says it traded profitably in the second half.

Garnar considers it too early to forecast results for the current year. However, all factories are maintaining a reasonable level of production and skin and hide prices have, to some extent, stabilized. There has also been some improvement in demand.

The document puts Booth's pre-tax loss for 1980 at about £14m—this figure shows a break-even situation in the second half of 1980 and no dividend. Garnar proposes to change its name to Garnar Booth.

Investor's week

Royal rally papers over ICI gloom

A totem has toppled. But down in the stock market hardly anyone noticed.

A few years ago ICI losing money and cutting its dividend (for the first time since 1938) would have sent shock waves through the sector. But not last Thursday. Investors were quick to slash millions off ICI shares when the 26 per cent total dividend cut became known.

The market blinked and then went on with its right royal rally. Up went the FT index on

the week from 488.4 to 506.6. What, according to taste, went right or wrong?

The truth is that ICI does not matter to the market as much as it did. This week the Department of Employment reported that since the middle of 1979 that industry had discharged one out of nine of its workers and the decline continues.

Other parts of manufacturing have left the private sector, and gobbling money in the public one. One way and another

industry does not count for so much on the stock exchange and that automatically goes for ICI. But this is not the end of it. ICI is not now regarded by many as our best run group. It is in fact run by a large committee, by no means the same thing.

ICI is also attacked for not streamlining hard enough at the onset of recession, one reason why its figures look so awful now. In its own quiet way the market has in fact been eating away at the totem's base. ICI shares have under-performed since the early seventies, and they are now at a five-year low. Bell-wethers do not lead from behind.

So ICI was trampled in the institutions' rush to get into shares. They were driven by fears of missing the next boom. The Bank of England underlined the move to cheaper money by dropping the reserve asset ratio, the banks must maintain with the Bank of England from 10 per cent to 8 per cent, thereby pumping money into the system. The ratio goes back to 10 per cent on March 10 of course, but

then money should be a lot cheaper.

Institutions sense that a worried Government is now more intent on filling jobs than on curbing prices as it hastens to retake the middle ground of politics in time for the next election.

Only weeks ago many were content to stick to gilt-edged, safe in the knowledge that ordinary shares could wait. Their eyes as the economy picked up only slowly. But with hard money out and inflation coming back in, this has suddenly become no time to be too closely tied to gilt-edged. The big boys, in fear of being left at the post, are hurrying into ordinary shares.

It was also a week when defensive stocks, especially financials, looked under the weather as investment interest turned elsewhere. National Westminster reported a jump in bad debt provisions and lower profits for last year while Lloyds revealed only a tiny advance.

Peter Wainwright

Cost of new shops slows Pullman

By Our Financial Staff

Clothing group R & J Pullman saw new shops have hit its profits. The group's turnover rose from £9.9m to £10.1m.

Higher interest charges and the cost of acquiring and stocking new shops have hit profits. No benefit has been taken in from the company's 65 per cent stake in B. Paradi.

The second half so far has seen demand continuing at a high level, especially in furs, leather and sheepskins.

First-ever loss for Raine

By Our Financial Staff

Raine Engineering Industries made a loss for the first time in its history in the first half of 1980-81. Mr Michael Taylor, the chairman, reported yesterday.

The Sheffield company's interim results to December 31 showed a £256,000 loss compared to a £121,000 profit in the first half of 1979-80. The group is paying a token dividend of 0.43p gross to preserve its trustee status. Interest costs rose 5 per cent to £291,000. After tax relief of £275,000, the net interim profit is £19,000 against £118,000.

Mr Taylor said that the group's second-half performance was "normally better than the first half".

The building interests make the bulk of their contribution in the final months of the group's year. But in 1979-80, the engineering strike hit Raine severely in its second half, and left it with a pre-tax profit of only £162,000 for the full year.

Meanwhile, housing subsidiary P. Bassall has bought General Housing (Derby). Mr Taylor made no forecast for the year, but said he hopes that the worst is now over.

Briefly

Mergers cleared: The proposed acquisition by Tarmac of a majority shareholding in Thomas Witter is not to be referred to the Monopolies Commission.

Fledgling Investments: Gross revenue for year to January 21 (£240,000). Net profit £28,000 (£28,000). Loss incurred 126p x (110p x). Dividend 4.35p net.

Stewart and Wright: No interim (same). Profit for half year to September 30, £3,500 (£2,000). Turnover £99,500 (£105,500). Consideration of the dividend will be made when year's results are available.

Minet Holdings: Agreement in principle has been reached with Nedbank Group to merge their South African insurance broking interests. The new merged group will be Minet SA Insurance Holdings. It will be one of the most powerful insurance broking groups in South Africa with a turnover in excess of £7m.

W. J. Pallen: Dividend 15p gross (£3.35p) for year to January 31. Gross revenue £10.4m (£9.9m). Net revenue available for £28,000 (£28,000). EPS 11.24p (£9.8p). Nav per share 327.7p (£279.7p). Board intends to pay a dividend of 12p net.

Tor Investment Trust: Gross income for half year to January 31 £460,000 (£409,000). Net revenue £218,500 (£208,000) after tax. Interim 2.5p net (same). Board intends to recommend a final dividend of at least 5.5p as forecast. Nav per share 70.2p x and capital share 327.7p on same basis.

Wholesale Fittings: Thorncroft Trust has sold 240,000 shares registered in name of Thorncroft Street Nominees, leaving holding £34,000 shares (£34,000). Leopold Joseph Steadman Fund: No dividend for 52 weeks to December 29 1980. Revenue deficit for year £14,000 (revenue for period £17,000). Capital account—gains on realisation of investments during year £773,500 (revenue £28,000). Loss incurred gains on investments held December 21 1979 £36,000 (nil).

Richards and Wainwright Industries: Board announced that in November that results for 1980 would be very disappointing and would not expect to recommend any dividend for the year. Half-year dividend on ordinary shares will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

Scottish Textile Mill: Turnover for half-year to October 31 1980 £5.1m (£5.8m). Net loss £100,000 (£200,000) after nil tax (profit £20,000). Loss incurred loss of £150,000 relating to the closure of a subsidiary.

Bank Base Rates

Bank	Rate
ABN Bank	14%
Barclays	14%
BCCI	14%
Consolidated Crdts	14%
C. Hoare & Co.	14%
Lloyds Bank	14%
Midland Bank	14%
Nat Westminster	14%
TSE	14%
Williams and Glyn's	14%

* 7 day deposit on sum of £10,000 and under 11% per year. £50,000 12% per year.

Profit made 'on the side'

I am one of three equal directors of a small limited company. Two of us deal with the production side and leave selling and office management to our co-director, who occasionally receives gifts from customers. He says these are an expression of their gratitude for his expediting orders or making deliveries in his own time. We think this is unbusiness-like, firstly because our customers already pay a fair price and secondly we do not wish to find ourselves in a position where we might be under a moral obligation to give them preference, for example, in times of shortage. Could you kindly let us know what the



Readers' Forum

This specialist readers' service has been compiled with the help of Ronald Irving, John Drummond and Tony Foreman

returned to the customers concerned on the ground that they might reasonably be expected to give rise to a situation where he might favour a customer's interest to the detriment of the company.

You can raise the matter at the next annual general meeting and ask that a resolution be passed to forbid the practice. Alternatively, if it is urgent you could as a director call an extraordinary general meeting to deal with the matter on giving at least 14 days notice.

I am self-employed, and am looking around for a pension contract. What is the difference between a contract funding for "cash" and one funding for "pension"? (D.M., Manchester).

With the former, your contributions accumulate so as, at retirement, to provide a cash sum. That is used to purchase an annuity at the time, and rates are high when you retire, the "cash" type of contract will be best, but the "pension" type will prove best if, at the time, interest rates should be low.

legal position is in this type of situation? (R.M., Coventry).

A director must observe the utmost good faith towards the company, that is, he must act at all times for the benefit of the company and not for himself. He must not do anything, for example, accept gifts which might reasonably be expected to give rise to a conflict between his private interests and his duties as a director. Although a director, he is nevertheless an employee of the company and no employee is permitted to keep any profit he makes "on the side" unless this is a recognized custom of the trade, for example, tips to waiters or taxi drivers.

Admittedly he has put himself out by making deliveries in his own time but this was in the course of his employment. His co-directors are entitled to insist that "perks" are handed over to the company or

M. J. H. Nightingale & Co. Limited

27/28 Lovat Lane London EC3R 8EB Telephone 01-621 1212

The Over-the-Counter Market

75	39	Airsprung Group	63	-1	6.7	10.6	5.7
44	21	Armistage & Rhodes	43	+1	1.4	3.3	17.7
192	92	Bardon Hill	189	-	9.7	5.1	7.1
98	88	Deborah Services	94	-1	5.5	5.9	4.7
126	88	Frank Horsell	106	-	6.4	6.0	3.3
110	51	Frederick Parker	51	-	11.0	21.5	2.3
110	74	George Blair	75	-	3.1	4.1	-
110	59	Jackson Group	107	-	6.9	6.4	4.1
124	103	James Burrough	119	-	7.9	6.6	9.8
334	244	Robert Jenkins	330	-	31.3	9.5	-
55	50	Scrutons "A"	53	-1	5.3	10.0	3.9
224	215	Torday Limited	216	-	15.1	7.0	3.7
23	10	Twindock Ord	11	-	-	-	-
90	69	Twindock 15% ULS	71	-	15.0	21.1	-
56	35	Unilock Holdings	42	-1	3.0	7.1	6.5
103	81	Walter Alexander	103	-	5.7	5.5	5.7
263	181	W. S. Yeates	260	-	12.1	4.7	4.2

Commodities

[illegible]

Cobalt price cut leaves London market uncertain

Reversing earlier details that it would cut the cobalt price, the Societe Zairoise de Commerce et d'Industrie Miniere (Zaire Government metals trading company) said it will cut prices by \$5 to \$20 an ounce from the current \$155.

The announcement left cobalt traders in the London market reluctant to make a price. The market was trading at \$155 an ounce, but prices as low as \$145 are

[illegible][illegible]

Discount

Bank of England assistance on an extremely large scale was needed to relieve the shortage of day-to-day credit in the discount market yesterday. This huge shortage was created chiefly by the second and final call on the Exchequer 12 per cent stock, 1985, although there were other moderately sized adverse factors in the form of maturing commercial bills in the hands of the authorities and a moderate rise in the note circulation.

Foreign exchange report

The pound was still going down at the end of a rather dismal week for the United Kingdom economy yesterday, with its dollar rate falling to £12.975 before closing at £12.950 (roughly 100 shillings to the dollar) down since last Friday. Trade-weighted sterling fell to 98.9 from 99.3. Fresh selling stemmed from the belief that the Government will rely mainly on the sale of foreign assets to revive the economy. So a four per cent cut in MLR was talked of by market men. The Bank of England may have given a steadying touch at one stage, they added. Trading was described as fair and included some end-of-the-month book squaring.

The dollar showed all-round strength boosted by firm forecasts and the belief that American interest rates will rise before long, once the "honeymoon" of the Reagan Administration is over.

A large trading loss on a substantial short position in the dollar was brought renewed weakness to the mark, which ended off the bottom at 2.1305 (2.1145) against the dollar.

Sterling: Spot and Forward

	Market rates (day's range)	Market rates (close)	
New York	February 27	February 27	1 month
Montreal	32.99-32.10	32.99-32.10	35.2-62c disc
Amsterdam	33.99-36.30	32.670-6420	10-70.50c disc
Brussels	5.16-29.1	5.19-29.01	15-3c prem
Antwerp	74.40-71.30	74.70-70.90	100c prem-par
Copenhagen	14.70-14.50	14.70-14.50	325c prem-450c pr
Dublin	1.2780-3560	1.2820-2850	10-25p disc
Frankfurt	126.30-126.30	4.69-7.10	par-1.1p disc
Lisbon	126.30-126.30	126.30-126.15	5 par-1.10c disc
London	1.49-1.49	1.49-1.49	100c prem-100c
Milan	3253-701	3257-701	80 prem-30c disc
Oslo	11.97-12.12	12.04-06	145 prem-300c disc
Paris	110.9-111.10	110.9-111.10	100c prem-100c
Stockholm	10.19-11.10	10.24-958	25-3900c disc
Tokyo	456-65	462-93	240-175p prem
Vienna	33.00-300c	33.30-300c	7-40p prem
Zurich	4.30-577	4.32-573	20-10c prem

Effective exchange rate compared to 1975, was down 8.4% at 98.5%.

Other Markets

Australia	1.8855-1.9105
Bahrain	0.3255-0.8295
Finland	8.3550-9.0050
Greece	110.95-112.95
Hongkong	11.6785-11.7355
Iran	not available
Kuwait	0.601-0.604
Malaysia	5.0360-6.0660
Mexico	51.40-53.50
New Zealand	2.5710-2.5970
Saudi Arabia	7.3285-7.3590
Singapore	1.2965-1.6185
South Africa	1.7110-1.7260

Indices

	Bank of	Morgan
	Index	Guaranty
	Changes	Changes
Sterling	98.9	9.4.
US dollar	100.6	9.4.
Canadian dollar	84.9	n.a.
Schilling	118.4	n.a.
Belgian franc	107.2	n.a.
Danish kroner	89.5	n.a.
Deutsche mark	120.5	n.a.
Swiss franc	133.0	n.a.
Guilder	112.2	n.a.
French franc	96.4	n.a.
Lira	51.4	n.a.
Yen	145.6	n.a.

Dollar Spot

Ireland	1.7150-1
Canada	1.2007-1
Netherlands	2.3500-1
Belgium	34.75-3
Denmark	6.6700-3
West Germany	2.1280-3
Portugal	57.15-5
Greece	86.85-8
Italy	1023
Norway	5.4525-5
France	5.0100-5
Sweden	4.6400-4
Spain	209.35-3
Japan	15.05-1

Money Market

Rates

Bank of England M.L.R. 14 1/4
(Last changed 24/1/80)
Clearing Banks Base Rate 14 1/2
Discount Mkt. Loans %
Weekend High 14 Low 14
Week Fixed: 14

Treasury Bills (Disc%)	
Buying	Selling
2 months 12 1/2	2 months 12 1/4
3 months 11 1/2	3 months 11 3/4

Prime Bank Bills (Disc%) Trades (Disc%)	
2 months 12 1/2	3 months 12 1/4
3 months 11 1/2	12 1/4

EMS Currency Rates

	ECU central rates	currency against ECU	% change from central rate†	% change adjusted* ‡	diver- gence plus/minus
Belgian franc	39.7897	41.6533	+4.65	+1.38	1.53
Danish krone	7.7224	7.9599	+3.06	-0.24	1.64
German D-mark	2.48328	2.54600	+2.50	-0.70	1.12
French franc	5.84700	5.98476	+2.36	-0.94	1.50
Dutch guilder	2.74362	2.81330	+2.54	-0.76	1.81
Irish punt	0.686207	0.6953	+3.97	+1.68	1.67
Italian lira	1157.79	1224.58	+5.80	+2.50	4.03

Euro-\$ Deposits Gold

(5%) calls, 14 $\frac{1}{2}$ -15 $\frac{1}{2}$; seven days, 15 $\frac{1}{2}$ -16 $\frac{1}{2}$; one month, 16 $\frac{1}{2}$ -16 $\frac{3}{4}$; three months, 16 $\frac{1}{2}$ -16 $\frac{3}{4}$; six months, 16 $\frac{1}{2}$ -16 $\frac{3}{4}$.

Gold

Gold fixed: am. \$490.75 (an o
am. \$489.00 close, \$490.50.
Krugerrand (per coin): \$5
\$227.75-229.
Sovereigns (new): \$1
\$35.50-36.50).

Wall Street

New York, Feb. 27.—Stocks on the New York Stock Exchange closed higher in active trading and the NYSE index rose 0.74 to 75.14. The average price per share was 48 cents.

The Dow Jones industrial average gained 7.77 to 975.58. The rise brought the gain for the week to 19. Advances led declines 1,022 to 474 as turnover slowed to 10,000 shares from 60,300,000 the day before.

Volume leader Eastman Kodak climbed 1½ to 80. Active Quaker Refining rose 1½ to 19½. Louisiana Land jumped 5½ to 45½. Conoco rose 1 to 71½ and Phillips Petroleum ¾ to 47½.

exaco climbed one to 40. It is now another Baltimore Canyon. Among partners in the venture, Getty added 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ to 71 $\frac{1}{2}$ to 42 $\frac{1}{2}$. Allied Chemicals added 53 $\frac{1}{2}$. Transco 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ to 48 $\frac{1}{2}$. American Support Minerals 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ to 63 $\frac{1}{2}$. Mesa Petroleum gained 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ to 57 $\frac{1}{2}$. The one Royalty climbed 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ to 55 $\frac{1}{2}$. Wyler Corporation put on 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ to 55 $\frac{1}{2}$.

among other blue chips. Procter and Gamble jumped four to Coca-Cola $\frac{1}{2}$ to 35 $\frac{1}{2}$. Merck to 83 $\frac{1}{2}$ and Alcoa $\frac{1}{2}$ to 33 $\frac{1}{2}$. General Electric slipped $\frac{1}{2}$ to 46 $\frac{1}{2}$. International Paper $\frac{1}{2}$ to 46 $\frac{1}{2}$. Minnesota Mining $\frac{1}{2}$ to 62 $\frac{1}{2}$.

US commodities

[illegible]

China Prod	2.4	2.9
China Power	18	16
Continental Grp	34	35
Control Data	60	62

[illegible]

White Motor	637	22.5
Woodworth	684	22.5
Xerox Corp	761	22.5
Yarnall	241	22.5

194	87 1/2	88 1/2	Lebanon	
195	87 1/2	88 1/2		
196	87 1/2	88 1/2		
197	87 1/2	88 1/2		
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273	87 1/2	88 1/2		
274	87 1/2	88 1/2		
275	87 1/2	88 1/2		

Authorized Units, Insurance & Offshore Funds

[illegible]

50

Stock Exchange Prices

Firm end to account

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings Begin, Monday. Dealings End, March 13. § Contango Day, March 16. Settlement Day, March 23

Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days

1980/1 Low Company Price Chgs Pence % P/E									
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Shoparound with Beryl Downing Shoparound with Beryl Downing Shoparound with Beryl Downing Shoparound with Beryl Downing

For most of us the greatest boon to bedding has been the advent of easy-care, and for that we have to thank America, where the European tradition of professional laundering has never been adopted because of the early development of home washing machines and drip dry fabrics.

Americans play as hard as they work and they therefore prize their leisure far too highly to spend any of it ironing. When I stayed with friends in Florida recently and wanted to press my allegedly drip-dry shirt, my hostess could not even find her iron as she hadn't used it for four months. When they say non-iron, you'd better believe it.

The quality of their polyester cotton mixtures is therefore, I have to admit, a great deal better than ours and their designs are stunningly original. Seasoned trans-Atlantic travellers learn long ago to take large enough suitcases to bring back treasures unthought of in this country, but now you don't even need the air fare—a trip to Downing Hill will reward you with a selection of some of the best designs from the top American producers.

There, at 190 Kensington Park Road, London W11, is a shop called Between The Sheets, recently opened by two American designers, Clark Hamford and his partner, Tony Baharik, who are specializing in high quality percale sheets at remarkably competitive prices.

Percale sounds like a man-made fibre, but in fact refers originally to a very finely woven cotton and is now used also for polyester cotton mixtures which have a weave of 180 threads per inch. Supercal is even finer, with 200 threads per inch and this, plus the fibre blend, makes the fabric really easy-care.

There are 17 designs from the romantic to the geometric, many by top fashion names including Dior, St. Laurent and Geoffrey Beene. The trend is away from the deep colours to gentler pastels—multi-coloured harlequin diamonds, delicately shaded feathers, full blown flowers, sophisticated checks. Muppet fans can even go to bed with Kermit the Frog.

One of the prettiest sets is in all white Supercal with broderie anglaise trimming—a fitted double sheet, trimmed top sheet and two matching pillowcases costs £28.50, with matching valance £28—the idea of all

that embroidery being drip dry is a delight. All the items are available individually—single fitted sheets cost from £8.50, single flat sheets £8.75, pillowcases £5.50 per pair. Double, queen size and king size are also available and duvet covers can be made to order. For more details telephone 01-727 8768.

Right: white drip dry Supercal polyester and cotton sheet set trimmed with broderie anglaise. Two double sheets and two pillowcases, £28.50 plus £1.50 p & p. Other sizes available. From Between The Sheets, 190 Kensington Park Road, London, W11. Far right: white percale polyester and cotton sheets set splashed with brilliant tulips in red, yellow, blue and green. Two single sheets and two pillowcases, £21.75, plus £1.50 p & p. Other sizes available. From Between The Sheets 190 Kensington Park Road, London, W11.

bought during the last power cuts in London, 14 candles to light my typewriter and, when the carbon dioxide cocoon I thus created in my study became unbearable, the comfort of the sheer weight of my old fashioned bedding. I know duvets are supposed to be as warm as cotton, wool and down, but I have never been able to get along with them. For me

they are too hot in summer, slip off in winter and have nothing at all to offer except being easy to handle when you are not actually under them. I admit I am one of a geriatric lot not actually dying breed. According to the Continental Quilt Association, sales have been rising steadily since major stores took up duvets in a big way in 1970 and it is now only

the "older age group" who refuse to be converted. It seems, though, that I am not alone in finding them less than perfect for the latest trend is to have a thinner, quilted cover called a comforter for summer use. If you have to buy two quilts to cope with variations in temperature, why not stick to the old sheet/blanket/duvet combination?

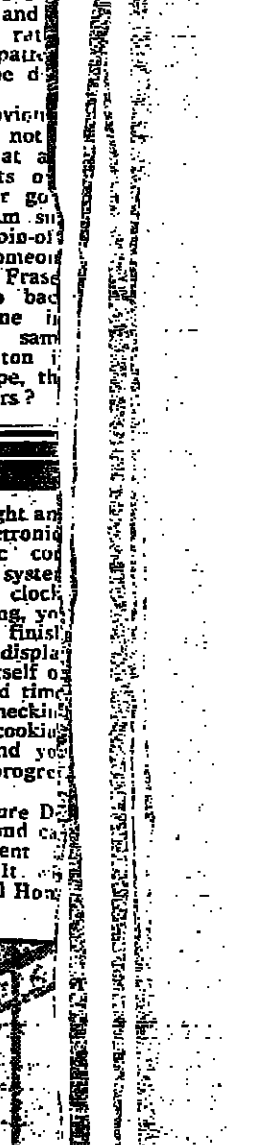
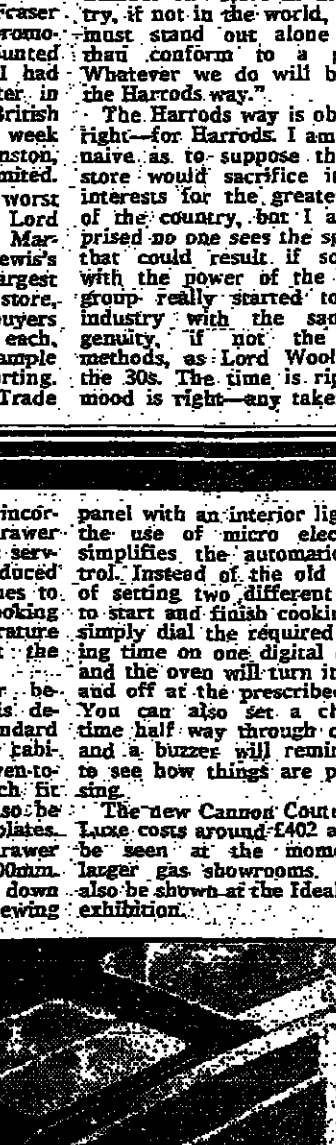
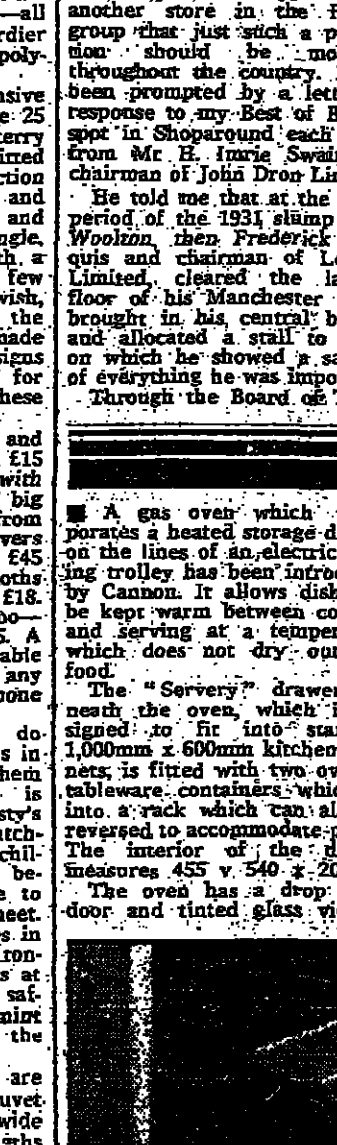
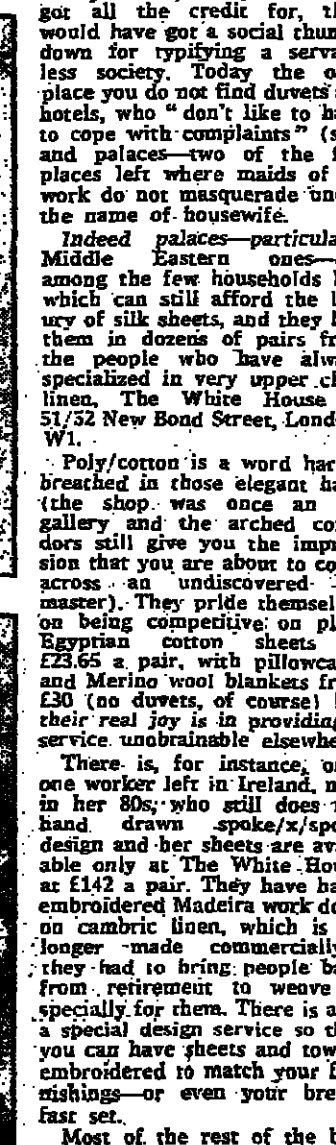
When they were first introduced here in the late 60s continental quilts were taken up by the "colour supplement market" but their appeal has now gone downmarket and is achieving mass sales. I strongly suspect that had they been around in the 50s when Professor Alan Ross invented the U and non-U formula which Nancy Mitford expanded and got all the credit for, they would have got a social thumbs down for typifying a servile society. Today the only place you do not find duvets are hotels, who "don't like to have to cope" but their appeal is still growing.

Indeed, palaces—particularly Middle Eastern ones—among the few households left which can still afford the luxury of silk sheets, and they buy them in dozens of pairs from the people who have always specialized in very upper class linen. The White House at 51/52 New Bond Street, London, W1.

Poly/cotton is a word hardly breached in those elegant halls (the shop was once an art gallery and the arched corridor still gives you the impression that you are about to come across an undiscovered old master). They pride themselves on being competitive on plain Egyptian cotton sheets at £23.65 a pair, with pillowcases and Merino wool blankets from £30 (no duvets, of course) but their real joy is in providing a service unobtainable elsewhere.

There is, for instance, only one worker left in Ireland now in her 80s; who still does the hand drawn spoke/spoke design and her sheets are available only at The White House at £42 a pair. They have hand embroidered Madeira wools done on cambric linen, which is no longer made commercially—they had to bring people back from retirement to weave it specially for them. There is also a special design service that you can have sheets and towels embroidered to match your furnishings—or even your breakfast set.

Most of the rest of the bed linen is made exclusively for them in France and I have to admit that until I saw it I would not have believed that the quality of anything as basic as a sheet could be as instantly recognizable as is the cut of haute couture. I am not sure that I could sleep at all without sheets costing £750 a pair, but



Above left: matching baby linen printed with bon bon design in yellow, deep pink and blue. Moses basket complete with lining, mattress and cotin (baby bag), £45. White terry towel with applique bear, £10. Square pillowcase, £9.50. Child's nightdress, age 4 to 5, £15, 10 to 12, £19. All from Descamps. Above right: children's duvet by Christy. Details in column 5. Top right: two tablecloths in a design called Ficelle by Primrose Bordier for Descamps. Top cloth, 160 x 160 cm, £24, bottom cloth, 175 cm diameter, £22. Both come with six napkins in red or green on white and, reversed, in white on red or green.

Those of you who join me in praise of older linen will be enchanted by a shop devoted to Victorian and Edwardian lace and hand embroidery, not only on tablecloths, pillowcases and bedcovers, but also on clothes—blouses, petticoats, night-dresses.

The whole shop is like a set for the Snow Goose—festooned from ceiling to floor in drifts of white cotton and linen. When the owners, Stephen and Juliet Lunn first opened three years ago, the shop front was devoted to furniture and prints, while the lace was confined to the back room—a small collection bought by Juliet from market stalls simply because she enjoyed wearing it.

So many other people share that enjoyment that the contents of the small back room began to overflow into the main shop, until it became obvious that the furniture would have to go. The Lunn's now have one of the largest collections of old lace and embroidery in the country and are probably the only dealers specializing in all-white.

Their stock covers a period from 1850 to the 1930s and they have a splendid selection of pillowcases, mostly made in Germany around 1920 for the large square pillows favoured on the Continent. Some are trimmed with 'lace', some with broderie anglaise, others with very fine machine embroidery. They are available in pairs at £28 or singly at £12 and £14. The large pillows to fit can be made with various fillings from curled feathers to pure down from £14 to £38 each.

There are also fine linen Edwardian sheets at £35 each and bolsters at £24. The most magnificent example of handwork is a linen bedspread over 100 years old and decorated with several types of lace and embroidery—needlepoint Irish lace, cut work and broderie anglaise among them. This is £400, but there are a few modern reproductions, too, beautifully embroidered in China but on lightweight cotton. This type of bedspread would be around £100, but would certainly not withstand the years of laundering that the fine quality linens have already undergone.

Indeed, for the fastidious, it is the fact that all this apparently delicate work can be boiled that makes second-hand bedding and clothing acceptable—only the most valuable and fragile work needs special treatment. There are minutely tucked, long sleeved Victorian nightdresses with frilled cuffs or lace Edwardian blouses with high collars, both from £35, little broderie anglaise camisoles from £10 to £25, petticoats pretty enough to wear as skirts for £15 to £20.

Antique lace, in fact, is considered by experts to be considerably cheaper today than when it was made—apart, of course, from the rare examples such as the earliest known, called mummy lace, made in Egypt many centuries BC and now in the Victoria and Albert Museum.

Needle and bobbin lace as we now know it, began early in the 16th century in Italy and became important in France from about 100 years later. In England some form of lace has been made since Anglo Saxon times but it was not widely made until the mid-eighteenth century when refugees from the Low Countries, persecuted by Philip II, settled in the west country, where Honiton became the most famous centre for the craft.

As lace making developed here, heavy duties were levied on imports and lace smuggling began—often brought into the country in coffins, with or without an occupant. Fines of £1 per yard plus confiscation were imposed on imported lace by William of Orange, but Flemish lace was so popular that the duties were relaxed in 1699, so the lace was repeated in several hundred years of the country.

Even when made in larger quantities in this country, Queen Mary, according to Pat Earnshaw in *The Identification of Lace* (Shire Publications, £3.95) was paying £12 a yard and during 1694 managed to get through a quantity worth £1518 to get through a quantity worth £1518.

Strangely, some of that seventeenth century lace can now be found at auction for as little as £2 a yard. So, whether you are a serious collector or simply an admirer of beautiful handwork, if you have some old lace in need of restoring and laundering—you will find a trip to the far end of the King's Road rewarding and interesting. Lunn's Antiques are at 96 New King's Road, Parsons Green, London, SW6, 01-736 4638.

There are no half measures about cat addicts—anything to do with the object of their obsession has instant appeal and if you don't happen to have the same attraction for their evil misadventures, companion you run the risk of ruining a beautiful relationship.

They all, of course, attribute human feelings to their furry friends; a fact well recognized by Sven Hartzman and Thomas Hartner in their delightful portrayal of a very smooth operator called Jacob whose far exploits are pictured in a book of cat name, sub-titled *Little Cat Tales* (Jarvis, £3.95), published on Monday.

The story, illustrated with colourful cat cartoons, follows Jacob's introduction to a human household and his subsequent attempts to bend it to his will. It is charmingly written and presented and the truth of Jacob's supercilious attitude to the frailty of human nature is only too recognizable by anyone who has ever met his match in a cat. An irresistible present available direct from the publishers if you are unable to find it in your local bookshop. Write to: Billies, Glenside Industrial Estate, Star Road, Boringham, West Sussex, adding 72p p&pp.



Today Harrods is going British. In an international store importing goods from all over the world the fact that by far the largest proportion of their merchandise comes from Britain is a fact that is becoming easy to overlook, so today they begin the largest promotion they have ever staged, *Hoist The Flag*.

Every department will be displaying the best of British from bedding and furniture to fashion and food, and there will be special demonstrations throughout the four-week promotion among them: saddle making, rug weaving and clock making. A coloured *Hoist The Flag* brochure gives dates and details of events.

Among the most unusual exhibits will be the largest teapot in the world, holding 500 cups, an enormous pork pie in the shape of the British Isles (you can order one for £115) and two Broadwood pianos, one used by Chopin in 1847 and the other by Clara in 1844.

The credit for the idea, which has taken 18 months to complete, goes to merchandise director Rex Cannon. It is an excellent promotion and one which deserves every success as, of course, every piece of British goods sold is a boost to the British economy. I just wish it had not been confined to only one store in the Fraser group. Then it would feel rather more like a boost for Britain and a little less like a sales platform for Harrods.

Last year I suggested to another store in the Fraser group that just such a promotion should be mounted throughout the country. I had been prompted by a letter in response to an article of British goods sold in a Harrods window. I just wish it had not been confined to only one store in the Fraser group. Then it would feel rather more like a boost for Britain and a little less like a sales platform for Harrods.

He told me that at the worst period of the 1931 slump Lord Woolton, then Frederick Marquis and chairman of Lewis's, limited cleared the largest floor of his Manchester store, brought in his central buyers and allocated a stall to each, on which he showed a sample of everything he was importing.

Through the Board of Trade

and Federation of British Industries, he obtained a list of every British manufacturer likely to be able to make these goods and he sent an invitation to each to visit the exhibition, which he would, in turn, order a similar operation in London in cooperation with John Lewis partnership, Fridges, Harrods and J. & S. Another £3.5m was raised. The total at today's prices would be worth in the region of £10m.

The point that impressed me about this story is the way it is shown by the various stores. When I asked Mr. Al Craddock, managing director of Harrods, whether a similar promotion of British goods had been considered he said:

"Each part of the Fraser group is run as a separate unit and it is essential that Harrods does its own thing. We are a number one store in the country, it is not in the world and we must stand out alone rather than conform to a pattern. Whatever we do will be done the Harrods way."

The Harrods way is obvious right—for Harrods I am not naive as to suppose that a store would sacrifice its interests for the greater good of the country, but I am surprised no one sees the spin-off that could result if some of the stores with the power of the Fraser group really started to buy industry with the same generosity. If not the same methods, as Lord Woolton did in the 30s. The time is ripe, the mood is right—any takers?

A gas oven which incorporates a heated storage drawer on the lines of an electric serving trolley has been introduced by Cannon. It allows the food to be kept warm between cooking and serving at a temperature which does not dry out the food.

The "Serving" drawer, beneath the oven, which is designed to fit into standard 1,000mm x 600mm kitchen cabinets, is fitted with two even-to-tableware containers which fit into a rack which can also be reversed to accommodate plates. The interior of the drawer measures 455 x 540 x 200mm. The oven has a drop down door and tinted glass viewing

panel with an interior light and the use of micro electronic simplifies the automatic control. Instead of the old system of setting two different clocks to start and finish cooking, you simply dial the required finishing time on one digital display and the oven will turn itself off at the prescribed time. You can also set a checking time half way through cooking and a buzzer will remind you to see how things are progressing.

The new Cannon Couture Luxe costs around £402 and can be seen at the moment at larger gas showrooms. It is also shown at the Ideal Home exhibition.



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